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WAR- CHRONICLE

WAR JOURNAL
SOLDIERS' LETTERS
PICTURES OF THE WAR

*From Germany
March 1915*



JANUARY 1915

Printed and published by M. Berg.

Exchange of Telegrams between the Kaiser and the Pope.

Main Headquarters, 2nd January.

The following telegrams have been exchanged between the Kaiser and His Holiness the Pope:

“To His Majesty William II., German Emperor.

Trusting to the display of Christian charity, which Your Majesty has always shown, we request Your Majesty to end this unhappy year, and to begin the new one with an act of Imperial generosity by accepting our proposal, that between the belligerent States an exchange of prisoners of war, unfit for military service, may take place.

Pope Benedict XV.”

“To His Holiness the Pope, Rome.

While thanking Your Holiness for Your telegram, I sincerely assure Your Holiness that the proposal of alleviating the Fate of the prisoners of war, unfit for military service, meets with my entire approbation. The feelings of Christian charity, which prompted this proposal, correspond entirely with my convictions and wishes.

Wilhelm.”

Russia wanted the War.

The “Norddeutsche Allgemeine Zeitung” writes under the title: “Communications made by the Servian Ambassador in Petersburg”:

The “Nowoje Wremja” of 10th/23rd December publishes a conversation between its representative and the Servian Ambassador Spalaikowitsch in Petersburg, from which we take the following extract:—

“The Ambassador reminded me of the 11th/24th July when it became clear to all that the only way out of the difficult situation would be war. I had, continued the Ambassador, a lengthy conversation with the Foreign Minister, Herrn Sasonow, who seemed very decided, and declared to me categorically that in no case could Russia allow Servia to be treated by Austria in an aggressive manner. The Minister informed me that on this account, he had taken an opportunity of speaking to the German Ambassador, Graf Pourtalès, quite openly. The leader of the Russian diplomatic ressorts explained to Germany’s representative, that an attack on Servia would touch the most vital points of Russia’s interests, and on that account

the Imperial Government would be obliged to take whatever measures it would consider necessary at the time."

This explanation of Herrn Spalaikowitsch is of great interest. As stated in the German "White Book" (Anlage 4), Herr Sasonow only explained to Count Pourtalès, that Russia could not possibly allow the Austro-Servian conflict to be settled by these two countries themselves. Up to this, we did not know the form in which Herr Sasonow had communicated the contents of this conversation to the Servian Ambassador. From the publication of the "Nowoje Wremja," we now learn for the first time that Herr Sasonow did so in a way quite different from the explanations which he had given the German Ambassador, and that they contained a Russian threat of War on Germany and its Allies, in case Austria-Hungary should dare to demand satisfaction from Servia without the sanction of Russia.

When the Servian Government was sufficiently strengthened by this explanation of Herrn Sasonow's, it can quite well be understood that, trusting to the military assistance, which had been promised by Russia, she refused to accept the Austro-Hungarian Ultimatum, and ran the risk of war.

Here we have an official proof given by one of the adherents of the Triple Entente, that even from the beginning of the crisis, Russia instead of trying to smooth away the difficulties, only tried to increase them.

(*Nordd. Allg. Zeitung*, 3rd January 1915.)

Storming the Heights of Soissons.

The following is reported from Main Headquarters, middle of January:

"The fighting North of Soissons, short reports of which have been given every day, has proved to be a most important military performance on the part of our troops engaged there, who achieved a glorious victory under the leadership of General von Lochow and Lieutenant-General Wichura.

For the last few months the French had occupied positions in the neighbourhood of Soissons, consisting of a maze of trenches, which extended to the North, along the right bank of the Aisne like a bridge head.

To the West of the battlefield in question, the railway line Soissons-Laon rises from the wide valley stretching along rugged and richly wooded heights, at the top of which the entrenchments of friend and foe were situated opposite each other with a very small space between, and both sides endeavoured by means of sap-heads to get possession of the crest of the hill. To the East of this hill, down in the valley, the village of Crouy is situated. The railway line Soissons-Laon passes this village in a northerly direction.

The French Attack.

To the East of the railway line, we find a row of quarries in which our soldiers had made themselves quite comfortable, showing remarkable building abilities. This so-called 'Quarry Position' forms the West salient of the plateau of Vregny, which stretches along to the East of the railway, the southern portion of which was altogether in the hands of the French. Along the riverside, several wide, deep clefts reach up to the plateau. The heavy French artillery had a very favourable position in these. The observers, who had taken up their positions in trees at the edge of the plateau, behind steel sheets and breast plates, directed the fire of the heavy guns on the flanks of the German positions on the wooded heights. This flank fire that was principally directed against the entrenchment of the Guards, was especially violent on Christmas day. It began again on 7th January with a heavy expenditure of ammunition. The gallant troops had a very hard time; one position, the so-called machine-gun trench, was literally razed to the ground by the enemy fire, the machine guns being buried beneath the debris. After this preliminary on January 8th the enemy prepared to attack. They pressed forward in a line of about 200 metres to the German entrenchments and in spite of numerous attempts could not be driven out again. Night and day up to the 11th January, very violent hand to hand fighting took place, indescribably bitter and murderous. Turkos, who were engaged here, did not only use gun and bayonet, but knives as well as their teeth.

The German Counter-Attack.

The situation pressed for a decision. On January 12th the German troops prepared for a counter-attack, which at first was directed, not so much against the wooded heights, as against the adjoining French positions on both sides. On the stroke of 11 a.m. our rifles, whose spirit of attack had not waned in these months of waiting and sapping, left their quarry position and bravely storming took the enemy's nearest entrenchments and artillery observation posts. The French flank fire against the wooded heights slackened at once. The principle object of this first attack had scarcely been attained, when an hour later (12 noon) on the extreme right wing, our gallant rifles rose and victoriously pressing forward won 1 kilometre of ground. Now the attack was begun against the wooded heights. The French were thrown out first from the German, and then from their own entrenchments and forced down the hill, where they rallied and offered resistance half way down.

We have heard since from prisoners that the French believed that the continuation of the German attack would be carried out from the wooded summit—from the German right wing. In ex-

pectation of an advance from this direction they had concentrated large reinforcements towards this direction. From the captured French Observation Posts, with the whole Aisne valley and Soissons with its Cathedral lying below, the arrival of these reserves by motor and rail could easily be followed.

The Surprised French.

The German attack took place on January 13th, but at quite a different point. It came as complete surprise to the enemy. The centre and left wing, whose object had been the occupation of the plateau of Vregny, on which the enemy was established in a regular system of entrenchments, and where they seemed to feel quite safe.

Again it was the midday hour, which gave the signal for our troops to accomplish new feats. On the stroke of 12 (noon), the German entrenchments grew lively, then followed an enormous jump: three minutes past twelve the first French line of defence was taken; by 12.13 the second. A flank attack from the Vregny wood lost its effect owing to the rapidity of the advance, and in the afternoon of January 13th, the whole plateau was in possession of the Germans. The enemy could only keep his ground in the valleys and on the slopes, which stretched down to the Aisne. The success of this German attack placed the French, who were advancing against the German right wing in the neighbourhood of the wooded heights, in a desperate position. For, when on January 14th the extreme German right wing again began its outflanking movement, and from the middle—via Crouy—German troops wheeled westwards, the French who had advanced towards the wooded heights, had no choice but to surrender. A retreat was impossible, as the German heavy artillery was in control of the Aisne valley. On the same day those of the enemy, who had not retreated during the night across the Aisne, were forced down the slopes of the Vregny hills. One company of our Guards even advanced under cover of darkness as far as the outskirts of Soissons. Our patrols cleared the whole fore-ground of the enemy as far as the Aisne. French units could only maintain a position in the bendings of the river to the East of the town.

German War Booty.

At the battle of Soissons, which lasted several days, the enemy in spite of strong positions and numerical superiority was forced back 2—4 kilometres in a front line extending for about 15 kilometres. On the enemy's side the XIV Infantry and XV Reserve Division, a mixed rifle brigade, and territorial infantry regiment, besides Turkos, Zuaves and Morocco rifles took part. More than 5,000 of these troops were taken prisoners by the Germans, while the

war booty was considerable: 18 heavy and 17 light cannons were captured, as well as numerous revolving and machine guns, pistols, hand and shell grenades, and finally large quantities of infantry and artillery ammunition.

Our Thanks to the Victorious German Troops.

The German troops accomplished these glorious feats after weeks of inactivity in a winter campaign under the most inclement weather conditions. Even on the days of the battle, rain and strong wind prevailed. They had to march across ploughed fields and muddy roads, through trenches stopped up with mud and gaping quarries. In many cases their boots remained sticking in the mud, but the German soldiers continued to fight bare-foot.

The feats performed by our splendid troops—ragged and dirty to look at—but splendid in physical strength and war-like spirit, is above all praise. Their courage, fortitude, disregard of death and heroic spirit were duly rewarded by the fact that their Supreme War Lord, who at the time was in their midst, decorated the responsible leaders with high orders on the battlefield. General von Lochow was decorated with “pour le mérite” and Lieutenant General Wichura “Commander of the Hohenzollern Order.”

Apart from the energetic, clear-sighted, and daring leadership, and the splendid achievements of the troops, the success of the battle of Soissons must be in a great measure attributed to the splendid co-operation of all troops, especially the infantry, field-artillery, foot-artillery, and pioneers, who supported each other in the fullest sense of the word. The telephone section played quite a large part in helping to secure the victory. The German nation can be proud of such troops and their leaders.”

(Norddeutsche Allgemeine Zeitung, 17th January 1915.)

The Fighting at Hurtebise on 25th and 26th January 1915.

Reports from Main Headquarters are as follows:

The Saxons have had their day of glory on January 25 at a distance of about a day's march from Soissons, not too far from the battlefields of 13th and 14th January, reports of which we sent a few days ago.

The scene of the battle was historical ground, the plateau of Craonne. The farm of Hurtebise, for the possession of which on 6th and 7th March 1814, the French and Russians fought long and bitterly, until at last it was set fire to and evacuated by the latter—to-day has been completely destroyed and burnt down by the French artillery, and a few walls are all that remain, standing just behind the centre of the German positions, from where the operations were

commenced to the East and West of the farm. The German entrenchments were situated along the *Chemin des Dames*, a high road running along the plateau of Craonne, which was built in the year 1770, by the owner of the adjacent and magnificent "Château le Bôve" for the princesses of France.

At a short distance opposite the German entrenchments, the French lay in a triple line. The latter's front line, like at Soissons, gradually occupied the southern edge of the plateau, furnishing a very favourable position for infantry as well as artillery observation. The left wing was supported by strong and excellently built out earth-works, the cave of Creute providing a bomb-proof shelter for strong reserves. These spacious caves, one of the numerous Paris chalk basins, were formerly used by the inhabitants as wine cellars, later on as larders and stables. During the battle of Craonne in 1814, the inhabitants sought protection from the artillery fire here. During the present fighting the possession of such a space was of considerable importance.

We were successful in taking from the French the above mentioned positions inclusive of earth-work and caves. After elaborate artillery preparations, our infantry, commanded by the Generals von Gersdorff and von der Planitz, prepared for an attack along the whole line, while the head command was in the hands of General d'Elsa.

Within a few minutes, the earth-works and the first French line, which had been considerably damaged by our artillery fire, were taken in storm. A short time after, the Germans had captured the second line. Now the storm proceeded beyond the caves against the third and last hostile position. Within half an hour the attackers were in possession of the earth-works and three lines with the exception of the left wing, where the enemy offered obstinate and bitter resistance. The cave itself, which was furnished with but one narrow exit towards the South, was still in the hands of the French.

While our troops arranged themselves in the captured positions, the entrance to the cave was surrounded and placed under machine gun fire. It was midnight before the closed-in occupiers, amounting to 300 men, surrendered. On the left wing, fighting lasted until 5 o'clock in the morning of 26th January. By this time the enemy's resistance was thoroughly at an end, and the attackers in possession of their goal: the three French lines.

Five officers, 1,100 men, 8 machine guns, a search-light, and a considerable pioneer depot, which had been erected in the cave, fell into the hands of the Germans. Any of the French defenders that escaped, fled down the decline and there dug themselves in—leaving the Germans in possession of the plateau and excellent new positions. Among the French killed and prisoners—the number of the former is estimated at at least 1,500—the regimental numbers

18, 34, 49, 143, 218, and 249 have been found. They belong to the XVIII. Army Corps. The reserves, part of which have been brought from the Pyrenees, fought most valiantly and bravely, but even they could not resist the incomparable spirit of attack and bravery of our troops for a longer time.

Chronicle of Events on the Eastern Theatre of War since Mid-September.

After the destruction and retreat of the Russian army, that had advanced into East Prussia, considerable units of German forces had become free. As the Austro-Hungarian armies, attacked by greatly superior Russian forces, were at the time retreating across the San, as far as the Wislocka, the German troops were transported to South Poland, with orders to support the Allies by an offensive attack through South Poland and across the Vistula, in the rear of the Russian forces pursuing the Austrians across the San. Our Allies pushed all possible units from the South to the North bank of the Vistula, so as to unite in their entire strength with the German offensive. In the middle of September German troops still stood on Russian frontier territory and already on September 28, the offensive from the direction Cracow-Kreuzburg towards the East could be begun, a most creditable performance on the part of our railway system.

On the left bank of the Vistula, Russian cavalry was reported—about 6 cavalry divisions—which had to retreat, partly with heavy casualties before the German advance.

From the enemies' reports at the end of September, it could clearly be seen that the immediate object of the German offensive, the relief of the Austro-Hungarian armies between the Carpathians and the Vistula had been fully achieved. Strong Russian forces had abated and were reported to be marching east of the Vistula in a northern direction towards the line Lublin-Kazimiers.

The First Russian Plan of Attack.

During the first days of October the Russians made preparations for some units to cross parts of the river between Sandomierz and Josefow, probably with the intention of engaging the Allies who were advancing towards the Vistula, north and south of Opatow, and with the rest of their forces by proceeding from Iwangorod, to outflank the German left wing. This plan was foiled by the attack of German superior forces, which obliged the advanced Russian vanguards to retreat across the river to the east of Opatow, on October 4th. The Russians, however, with their peculiar obstinacy

did not desist from their original plan. Further down the stream, fresh attempts were made to cross the river between 8th and 20th October at Kazimierz, Nowo-Alexandria, Iwangorod, Pawlowice and Ryczywol, all of which were prevented and some accompanied by very heavy losses for the Russians.

In the meantime in Galicia, the Austro-Hungarian army had succeeded in driving back the Russian forces across the San, causing them to evacuate Przemysl; a further advance, which had to be undertaken against the left flank of the Russian forces, met with obstinate resistance on the San and to the North East of Przemysl. The situation now became difficult for the German and Austrian forces on the Vistula, whose task was to prevent an advance of the Russians across the river, until the Austro-Hungarian army, which was advancing from the South towards the right bank of the Vistula, could carry out an attack on the enemy's flank.

It could be deduced from reports as to the transport of strong Russian forces towards Warsaw, from the San and the interior of the Empire, as well as to the building of a strong bridge-head position, between Lowicz-Skierniewice-Grojec and the mouth of Pilica that the Russians intended to make a great offensive attack against the German left wing from the direction of Warsaw. These suppositions were confirmed later on, by valuable papers, which were found on a Russian officer, who had fallen. According to these, the Russians intended to engage the Germans on the Vistula, above and below Iwangorod with about 5 Army Corps, while the principle forces, more than 10 Army Corps with numerous reserve divisions coming from Warsaw-Nowogeorgiewsk, were to crush the German left wing.

German Counter-Attack.

This plan could only be frustrated by the speedy advance towards Warsaw. If the Russians were prevented crossing the Vistula at this point, then the Austro-Hungarian armies, which were still fighting for the San portion, would get time to carry out the attack on the left flank of the Russians, who were engaged fighting for the crossing of the river.

Preparations were made for the immediate advance of the main troops towards Warsaw, while smaller forces were left to guard the Vistula north and south of Iwangorod. A quick and ruthless attack succeeded in driving back hostile forces from their already established positions, and advancing almost as far as the gates of Warsaw, while the troops above and below Iwangorod engaged Russian forces, which in the meantime had crossed the Vistula south of this town in long and violent fighting, that lasted till 20th October, keeping them occupied in spite of their numerical superiority.

The Russians, however, developed by degrees almost a fourfold superiority, as compared with the corps fighting before Warsaw. The German situation was precarious, as owing to the obstinate resistance

offered by the Russian troops at Przemyśl and on the San, the advance of the Austro-Hungarian armies on the left flank of the Russian forces was foiled, whereupon all hopes of the co-operation of the allied armies on the right bank of the Vistula, vanished. It was now impossible to prevent the Russians crossing the Vistula.

The Re-Organisation of the German and Austro-Hungarian Troops.

A new plan had to be formed. It was decided to attack the enemy in the vicinity and to the West of Warsaw, with the assistance of the German corps stationed above and below Iwangorod, that were to be relieved by the Austro-Hungarian troops, who, in the meantime had arrived at the left bank of the Vistula. The troops that had advanced almost to the gates of Warsaw, were withdrawn to a strong position in the direction Rawa-Skierniewice, while the forces that had become free in the direction of Iwangorod were to cross the Pilica and from the South attack the Russians that were pursuing towards the West, thereby bringing matters to a climax. We were successful in luring the masses of Russian forces near Warsaw, in the direction we wished. The Russians attacked the almost impregnable German positions impetuously, but all their attacks were repulsed with heavy losses. Just at the time, when the German forces that had been designated to attack the Russian flank from the South, were about to cross the Pilica, news arrived that the allied armies, that had attacked the advancing Russians from the South in trying to check their passage across the Vistula had great difficulties in maintaining their positions in the neighbourhood of Iwangorod, owing to the ever increasing hostile superiority. At the same time the Russians collected very considerable forces against the German left wing at Skierniewice, which, owing to the threatening danger of being outflanked, had to retreat towards the South West.

The German troops situated on the banks of the Pilica and Radomka were gravely threatened. The enemy displayed ever increasing strength in the direction of the Lysa Gora, violent fighting taking place at Przemyśl and on the San. Under such circumstances the allied army had to take the difficult, but only possible decision of breaking off all operations on the Vistula and San, as owing to the enormous numerical superiority of the enemy, no hope of decided success was presented; it was more important to ensure freedom of action and inaugurate operations that were altogether new. The forces situated between Warsaw and Przemyśl were drawn off the enemy, and by the end of October had retreated towards the Carpathians in the direction of Cracow—Czenstochau—Sieradz, after having destroyed all railway lines, roads, and telegraphic communications. This work of destruction was so thoroughly carried out, that the enemy masses would be obliged to follow very

slowly, and as soon as the withdrawal had been successfully effected, the entire movement of the Allies could be carried out according to the pre-arranged plans.

The Second Russian Plan of Attack.

The Russians only advanced in Galicia in sections, their main forces were directed against the South West and South. Unimportant forces advanced from the Narew on both sides of the Vistula in a western direction on Thorn.

The object of all further operations on the part of the Allies was to break the strength of the Russian masses, no matter what the cost. This could only be achieved by an attack, in spite of the enemy's numerical superiority; obstinate resistance would only give time, and would certainly be crushed by the powerful hostile masses sooner or later. The Allies' plan of operation was following:

Decisive endeavours were to be made in Poland and Galicia by an attack against the main Russian forces, that were advancing along the Vistula and to the East of Cracow, while the Allies' flanks in eastern Galicia and East Prussia were to maintain a defensive against the opposing hostile forces. All available troops had to be concentrated so as to ensure a decision in Poland. The Russian pursuance, which was of necessity very slow, afforded time for the concentration of the forces. Strong Austro-Hungarian forces stood in Galicia.

In South Poland, in the direction of Cracow and the upper Silesian frontier, a strong group, consisting of Austro-Hungarian and German troops, was formed. A second group, consisting of German troops only, under the leadership of General von Mackensen was collected by rail and foot on the frontier between Wreschen and Thorn. It was for them to defeat the lesser Russian forces that were advancing immediately South of the Vistula between this river and the Ner-Warta-portion, and when this was accomplished advancing from the North to attack the right flank of the Russian forces, while the southern group had the task of keeping same engaged. A smaller group had been collected for the protection of West Prussia on the North bank of the Vistula in the direction of Strassburg-Soldau.

Towards the middle of November, the Russian forces, concentrated on the banks of the Vistula on the East Prussian frontier and in Galicia, were distributed approximately as follows:

8—9 army corps—the X. army—were situated on the East Prussian frontier between Schirwindt and Biala, smaller forces 3—4 army corps with some cavalry divisions advanced between the East Prussian southern frontier and the Vistula, in the direction of Mława and Thorn. On the south bank of the Vistula in the direction of Thorn, between Włocławek and Dąbie 2—3 army corps; these forces, which had advanced along both banks of the Vistula, belonged to the I. Russian army. Besides these, the Russian main

forces, consisting of the II., IV., V., and IX. armies—in all about 25 army corps—with numerous cavalry divisions, had reached the line Uniwo-Zdunska-Wola-Noworadomsk territory to the North of Cracow and after a long halt on the banks of the Warta began to cross the river at this point with the two northern armies. To the South of the Vistula in Galicia the remaining Russian armies advanced. All available troops, in particular the Siberian and Caucasian corps had been collected, so that the entire strength of the Russian forces operating against Germany and Austro-Silesia can be calculated as having amounted to almost 45 army corps, with numerous reserve divisions.

At the middle of November the Russians opened an elaborately prepared offensive along the whole line, which was repulsed at Stallupönen, Eydtkulmen and Soldau (in East Prussia) after severe battles.

The Great German Counter Attack.

The Russian offensive in Poland was prevented by simultaneous German attacks, on November 13 and 14, when the Russians were beaten near Wloclawek, numerous Russian prisoners being taken. Two Russian corps, which came to the assistance of the enemy, met with decisive defeat near Kutno on November 15. 28,000 prisoners were taken, a number of cannons and machine guns also being captured. Lesser German forces, commanded by General von Morgen, took up the pursuance of these retreating forces towards the East, while the army commanded by General von Mackensen, operating towards the South, both sides of Lenczyoa succeeded in defeating a Russian corps near Dombie. Owing to the danger now threatening their right flank, the Russians were compelled to withdraw their right wing (the II. army) in the direction of Strykow-Kasimierz-Zdunska-Wola towards the North West. The main portion of the V. army was also withdrawn in this direction, so that now a huge gap had been forced in the middle of the Russian front between the IV. and V. armies.

The Germans advancing across the Ner-portion in the direction of Lodz were successful in taking the important point Zgierz on November 15, while on 18, the Russian right wing was forced back from Strykow to Brzeziny and Lodz. The II. and V. Russian armies situated near Lodz, were surrounded from the East and South East by the German left wing which advanced from Brzeziny and Tuszyn. Meanwhile weaker forces, which had been brought on from Posen and Breslau, assisted by cavalry, surrounded the enemy coming from the West and South West. It now seemed as though the Allies could achieve their original object in spite of the enemy's numerical superiority, and the destruction of the opposing Russian forces seemed imminent—when a sudden reverse was met with. The Russians received unexpected assistance at the last minute from the East and South. Part of the Russian forces, which had been

stationed on the East Prussian frontier, as well as the Russian I. army corps retreating from the northern bank of the Vistula, had been brought on by rail and foot via Warsaw-Skierniewice and united, to the West of last mentioned place. These advanced now, joined by strong forces proceeding from the South (probably part of the right wing of the IV. army) towards the rear of the German troops that were directed against West and North West, threatening to surround them, after having repulsed the German rear-guard that had been sent to the East and South East.

The Russians try to surround the German Army.

The situation of the Germans was precarious. No help could be expected from the direction of Lowicz where General von Morgen's troops had advanced, as these after several successful battles had come upon a greatly superior hostile force to the West of Lowicz. The Fate of the German troops to the East of Lodz that were surrounded by greatly superior numbers, gave cause for uneasiness. However the brave Germans did not lose hope.

Breaking through the Russian Ring.

A daring act, as yet unprecedented in the history of war, was the only means of saving them: they burst through the iron ring. During the night of November 24—25 the German troops succeeded in breaking through in the direction of Brzeziny, at the same time capturing large numbers of the enemy, who had been surrounding them. More than 1,200 prisoners with numerous guns and machine guns were taken. Our casualties were comparatively few, and we were able to take almost all the wounded along with us. Owing to this heroic action, the success of which is due to decided and active leadership as well as the incomparable bravery of the troops, the expedition which had been all but hopeless, turned out victorious for the Germans. The troops which had been surrounded, managed by November 26, between Lowicz and Lodz, to come in touch with the left wing of General Mackensen's army, that was surrounding Lodz from the North.

The German front now extended from Szadek beyond Kazimierz to the North of Lodz-Glowno, as far as the territory North West of Lowicz. The united Russian masses now directed a general counter-offensive against this front. In spite of the heavy losses, which exceeded all that had taken place in previous battles, they renewed their attacks with the utmost obstinacy during the last week of November, all of which however were repulsed by the persevering German troops, who exhibited a complete disregard for death.

The Renewed German Attack.

At the beginning of December, the Germans, who had received reinforcements, in spite of the exhaustion of their troops that had been fighting almost incessantly for the past three weeks proceeded to attack along the whole front. The strong right wing succeeded in advancing into the gap in the Russian line, taking Lask and advancing in the direction of Pabianice, surrounding the Russian position to in the South West of Lodz. On the night of 5—6 December the Russians were obliged to evacuate their positions, which they had so obstinately defended, in the vicinity of Lodz as well as the town itself and to retreat beyond the Miazga. All Russian attempts to close the gap, failed, owing to strong attacks from the South by a group of the Allies, operating from the direction of Noworadomsk, with the assistance of their left wing, which was victoriously advancing.

The left wing of the northern German group, which in the meantime extended over Ilow as far as the Vistula, progressed considerably and advanced almost to Lowicz and the Bzura.

The Advance of the Austro-Hungarian Troops.

Simultaneously with the offensive in northern Poland, the allied Austro-Hungarian troops had proceeded to attack from the Carpathians and West Galicia. Considerable progress against the Russian left wing was reported from here. The result of this heightened pressure was, that about the middle of December the hostile masses on the entire front began to weaken; at first in West Galicia, then in South and North Poland, and retreated in an easterly direction. Beyond the Dunajec, Nida, Rawka and Bzura however they again offered obstinate resistance and a severe battle for these is still going on.

The complete Collapse of the Russian Offensive.

The original objective has been already achieved: The elaborately planned Russian offensive, which has been announced for months with great eloquence, which was to have flooded the entire East of Germany, can be considered as having completely collapsed. East and West Prussia, Posen and Silesia, need not fear a Russian attack for some time to come.

The Allied have captured more than 130,000 prisoners, numerous cannons, machine guns, as well as other war-booty.

Extraordinary exertion on the part of the entire allied forces in East Prussia, Poland, and Galicia, from the commander in general down to the youngest volunteer, have secured a successful issue of the campaign for the Allied.

The success which they have achieved is a result of the great confidence that has welded them together, in conscientious mutual

co-operation. The history of coalition-wars is not rich in examples of really devoted and loyal alliance. But here in the midst of violent fighting we have an especially brilliant example of such. The plans and execution of above described operations, made enormous demands on the leadership. The Staff, however, could make their plans all the more confidently as they were convinced of being supported by troops from whom they could demand the utmost, and who were proud and willing to make every sacrifice, even to the last drop of their blood for such leaders. Their courage, perseverance, and devotion are above all praise. For the past 5 months fighting an enemy far superior in numbers, first in East Prussia and then in Poland, these troops have hardly had one day's rest. They have been marching and fighting incessantly—for the last three months on a theatre of war—which even in times of peace poor and destitute, is now completely exhausted. Added to this, owing to the inclemency of the weather, wretched roads, every march over which meant double exertion for the troops, especially for the rear columns. But in spite of all these almost super-human efforts, notwithstanding all want and privations, and the fighting, which has been now going on almost incessantly for the past 5 weeks, the spirit of attack pervading these magnificent troops is still as strong as ever. Their confidence in victory has never wavered. Truly! The grateful fatherland can turn with pride and confidence to its brave sons in the East who, though fighting like heroes, yet know how to suffer and to die, and in spite of the enemies' superior forces to achieve such glorious victories.

(Norddeutsche Allgemeine Zeitung, 17th January 1915.)

The Shelling of the English Coast Towns.

The shelling of the three English coast towns, Hartlepool, Scarborough and Whitby by German naval forces, has been attacked in the English Press as being in violation of International Law. We are now reproached with having bombarded open towns without giving notice beforehand, thereby causing the death of numerous civilians. These reproaches are absolutely unfounded.

In the first place, there is no doubt that we are not bound by international contracts, when we shell places with the aid of our sea forces. The only treaty, which could be considered here, the ninth Hague Convention, concerning shelling by naval forces in time of war, dated 18th October 1907, cannot be applied in the present war, as it has not been signed by all the belligerents, consequently according to Article 8, the powers, who have signed, are not bound by same. The conditions of the agreement must, therefore, only be kept so far as they are compatible with the general principles of international law. Whether, according to same, the shelling of unfor-

tified places is forbidden or not, has not been determined, as for instance, we have an example of English naval forces bombarding open Russian coast towns in the Crimean war.

Nevertheless, the German naval forces kept strictly to the conditions of the Hague Convention. According to Articles 1—2 all fortified places, as well as all military installations in undefended places are liable to be shelled. These suppositions prove correct in the case of the English coast towns, bombarded by our ships. Hartlepool belongs to one of the "Coast Defences" according to the official British Monthly Army List. The Coast Defences, which are occupied by British soldiers in times of peace and war, are the objects that were shot at, by the batteries of the attacking German ships. Scarborough is not mentioned in the British Army List, as a fortified coast town; yet at the northern end of the town there is a rampart, which is clearly recognisable from the sea, protected by a wire abatis and provided with a battery on the sea side, furnished with six 15-cm. quick firing guns. Besides this, there are barracks on Scarborough Rock and at the southern end of the town, an officially mentioned wireless station. Whitby has, according to the official British Monthly Naval List, a coast guard station, which in times of peace and war is under the control of the British navy. The German naval forces only aimed at this station, as has been admitted by the English themselves.

That the preliminary notice of shelling, as stipulated in Article 2, par. 1; Article 6 of the Hague Convention, could not have been given without risking the success of the expedition, therefore according to above conditions was not binding, can be clearly seen from the military situation.

Much as we regret the loss of civilian life as caused by the German ships, nevertheless we wish to impress strongly by above explanations that the attacks carried out by us, were quite within the limits of International Law as depicted in time of war.

(Norddeutsche Allgemeine Zeitung, 1st January 1915.)

The Air Raid.

The English press has described the attack of our naval air-ships on the East coast of England, as being in violation of International Law, in the same manner as at the time of the bombardment of the English coast towns. The reproaches made, however, are just as unfounded as the former ones.

As to the use of air-craft, especially bombarding carried out by same, none of the international rules come into consideration in this present war. The Hague Declaration, concerning the prohibition of throwing projectiles and exploding matters from

air-ships, has elapsed in its previous form, while its new frame has been ratified neither by Germany, France, nor Russia, and can therefore not be considered binding for us with regard to England. The Hague Regulations, concerning "War on Land" and Convention regarding "Shelling by Naval Forces" have only made provision for "War on Land and Sea," no allusion being made to "War in the Air." and in the afore-mentioned case can only be applied in so far as they correspond with general international principles. At the same time there can be no doubt whatever that such principles are not in opposition to bombardment by air-craft, where a bombardment carried out by land or sea forces is permissible.

According to this, all fortified places are liable to be bombarded by air-craft, as this bombardment is allowed (see Article 25, Regulations for War on Land, and Article 1, Hague Convention), as well as all military equipments in unfortified places, according to Article 2 of the Hague Convention for Naval Warfare. Added to this, the general principle is applicable in the case of air war, that forces belonging to a war-waging party are permitted to take counter-measures against all hostile attacks.

According to reports received, the German naval air-ships have kept strictly to these rules. The object of their operations was the English coast town Great Yarmouth. According to the official British monthly army list, this is one of the "coast defences," which in times of peace and war is under the control of the British army and therefore liable to be shelled by air-craft. The other places damaged by our air-ships on their journey thither and back have only themselves to blame, as our air-ships were first shot at by them, so that it is questionable whether they can be considered as being unfortified. Besides this, on December 9 English air-ships carried out an attack on the unfortified town of Freiburg i. Br. and on December 25 dropped bombs on the unfortified and inhabited Island of Langeoog, although they had not been attacked from these places. It will clearly be seen, that owing to the nature of the air war and the practices carried out by both war-waging parties, the preliminary notice of attack as prescribed in Article 26 of the Hague Regulations for War on Land, and in Article 2, § 1; Article 6 of the Hague Convention is impossible.

We regret deeply, that on this occasion civilian life has been sacrificed. But the German forces cannot be deterred by such possibilities from taking all possible means, compatible with international law, of fighting an enemy that shuns no means whatever, whether in accordance with international law or not, for the destruction of our entire economic life.

(Norddeutsche Allgemeine Zeitung, 22nd January 1915.)

The English inflict corporal Punishment on Indians.

Confidential.

No. 3/3 (A).

Headquarters, Indian Army Corps,

Dated, 22nd October, 1914.

Memorandum for the guidance of Officers of the Indian Army Corps.

1. Under the provisions of I. A. A. 45, a sentence of corporal punishment can legally be awarded by a court-martial for any offence committed on active service by a person subject to that act and under the rank of Warrant Officer. The G. O. C., Indian Army Corps, directs, however, that such sentences shall not be awarded except in the case of persons convicted of:

- (a) Serious offences against the person or property of inhabitants of the country, tried under I. A. A. 41;
- (b) Housebreaking for plunder, or plundering, whether tried as in (a) or under I. A. A. 25 (j);
- (c) Sentry or member of guard plundering, etc., under I. A. A. 26 (c);
- (d) Disgraceful conduct under I. A. A. 31.

2. Officers convening Summary General Courts-Martial will invariably direct (under I. A. A. 98 [1] [c]) that, if a sentence of corporal punishment is awarded, the proceedings are to be sent to them for confirmation. Except when reference is not, with due regard to the exigencies of the service, practicable, all such cases should be referred to the D. J. A. G., Indian Army Corps, for report before confirmation.

3. Corporal punishment inflicted under I. A. A. 24 (2) will be restricted to cases of persons committing the offences mentioned in paragraph (1) above.

4. Corporal punishment will not be inflicted in the presence of British or other European Troops, or of civilians.

5. In the opinion of the Army Corps Commander, the offence of rape in this country should be punished most severely, and the sentence awarded should therefore not be less than the maximum.

6. A copy of this order will be in possession of every British Officer of Artillery and Indian Units in the Indian Army Corps. A copy will be placed before every Court-Martial held under Indian Military Law in the Army Corps.

W. E. O'Leary, Colonel,
Assistant Adjutant General,
Indian Army Corps.

Not only accounts and reports of German troops, but many memorandums of the enemy, which were captured by us, have shown to what cruel plundering French and Belgian hamlets were

subjected by members of the united armies. That the French army itself, was not altogether free from guilt, has been proved by more than one document. The English have also not been able to keep their hands quite clean in this respect. The excesses of their Indian troops will have given cause for most of the trouble. These transgressions must have been heavy in view of the measures taken here.

It is a question of nothing less than this:—England inflicts corporal punishment in some cases on her own Indian troops. The cases in which it is to be inflicted, are to be found enumerated in the memorandum. And this is all done by the same England that wants to sit in judgment on Prussian "Militarism." There does not seem to be the least sign of feeling here, that her own troops are dishonoured, by letting them go into the fight, side by side with soldiers who can be subjected to corporal punishment.

Of course, outwardly England keeps up appearances. This she always understood and continues to do so here. It is typical in this memorandum that the measure is taken:—"that corporal punishment must not be inflicted in the presence of British or other European troops, or of civilians!" What happens quietly or in secret, does not weigh heavily on the conscience of these "Promoters of Culture." In secret the "knout" swings over the Indian troops, but before the eyes of the world England plays the part of the deliverer from Prussian militarism.

"Difficile est satiram non scribere!"

French Calumnies.

According to a Paris telegram, at a Cabinet Council held on January 9, M. Viviani announced the report of a "Committee of Inquiry, concerning the violation of the rights of man by Germans," thousands of copies of which are to be printed, translated, and placed at the disposal of the neutrals.

This report as far as can be known up to this, from French publications, is composed mainly of an unbroken series of the lowest and most unfounded slanders with no other intention than to create hatred against the German people and calculated to sow groundless fears among the population towards the German Invasion.

1. The Germans are reproached generally and without any exact particulars as to time, place, names and proofs, with murder, plundering, incendiarism, assaulting women, and it is obvious that the compilers wish to paint the Germans as being in the habit of systematically committing the alleged atrocities, wherever they came on their march of victory.

In face of this, it must be stated that the German army commanders have by every means, and with full success, effected the maintenance of discipline and the observation of all the rules of

war in all the theatres of the war. The French government as well as the press, which is governed and influenced by former, and does not even refrain from representing German army leaders as accomplices and instigators of crimes, must therefore be reproached with lying.

2. Any particular cases, which have been pointed out up to the present from the French side, have at once been carefully investigated by the German government, and relying quietly and confidently on the German character the result of these investigations will be duly published.

One of these cases, that of Lunéville, which accuses the German army commanders of having burnt down 70 houses without reason, can be contradicted already. Had the French Government taken the trouble of making thorough and impartial inquiries, as to the reasons for the tribunal held in Lunéville, it would have been spared the reproach of frivolous untruth, with which, on account of its present behaviour it must be upraised. It would then have learned that on 25th August 1914, on the occupation of the town by the Germans, the population made a sudden and malicious attack at 5 o'clock in the afternoon by firing from the windows and roofs of the adjoining houses, on the hôpital militaire, which was filled with numbers of defenceless wounded. This firing lasted incessantly for one hour and a half, being carried on exclusively by civilians, as at the time there were no French soldiers in Lunéville; and on the following day civilians fired in the same way out of the houses on Bavarian troops.

This has been proved by several reliable and unprejudiced witnesses, who have given testimony on oath.

We can here remind the French Government, how the French troops behaved in their own country. It is they, who pillaged and robbed, but not the Germans, who are most unfoundedly reproached with these offences by the French Government. Their own countrymen have testified, that French soldiers and civilians in their own country have ruthlessly plundered castles and houses—in Fontaines near Belfort, Rambervillers, Attigny, Villers-devant-Merrières, Vivaisse near Crepy, Thugny and Moy. It is they, therefore, and not the Germans, who must be accused of these crimes; on the contrary, in many cases, reliable French witnesses have given testimony as to the good behaviour, decency and strict discipline of the Germans.

The accusation of murder, which has been brought against the German troops, falls back on the slanderers themselves. It must here be mentioned, that in numerous cases the French have disgracefully mutilated and murdered German wounded on the battlefields. It has several times been proved that cases have occurred, in which French soldiers have killed defenceless German wounded, by piercing their bodies, heads and eyes with the bayonet, cutting their throats and carrying out other cruelties. Where French troops

have been fighting, such disgraceful atrocities, as imprisoning the wounded, binding them to trees and posts, shooting the injured at the shortest possible distance, murdering ambulance men, cutting off separate organs and limbs, slitting the abdomen, piercing eyes, cutting off ears, transfixing the wounded to the ground as well as robbing them and the dead—all these atrocities have been proved and are a crying testimony as to the side, on which the desecrators of culture and morals are to be found. All the above mentioned, disgraceful actions, practised by the French troops, will be confirmed by the testimony of reliable persons on oath, and will in due time be brought before the tribunal of public opinion.

And even outside the range of battle, some organs of the French Government have been guilty of insidious assassination inside prison walls: In the prison of Montbeliard in August 1914, German prisoners of war were cruelly mutilated by French Gendarmes and afterwards murdered for no reason whatever. In another case pillaging hordes of French soldiers attacked the post-office agency in "Niedersulzbach," took the members of the postmaster's family prisoners, dragging them away, insulting and cruelly treating them, and threw the postmaster himself, who was 68 years of age, down the stairs and on to the street. He too was so cruelly treated by his warder in Belfort prison, kicked—beaten and tortured—that he died a miserable death on the night of 16th August 1914. These cases have also been confirmed by reliable eye-witnesses, who have sworn to the truth of same.

If we add to all this, the disgraceful, inhuman treatment, contrary to all the rules of international law, to which the German Medical Corps was subjected, which had the misfortune to fall into the hands of the French in Le Bourget, Fougères, St-Ménéhould, Vitry-le-François, St-Yrieux, Péronne, Saleux, Vincennes, Lyon, Amiens, Bourdeaux, Clermont-Ferrand and other places,—if we consider the cruel and humiliating treatment, which the prisoners of war in Périgueux, Granville, Puy de dôme, Montgazon, Fougères, Castres, Mont Louis and other concentration camps had to undergo,—when we consider further the use of the most dangerous and worst Dum-dum bullets on almost all parts of the French front—with the knowledge and approbation of the French army commanders, in face of all these facts, which have been proved, we must refuse the French Government all rights for its general and unfounded accusations and suspicions brought against the German army commanders.

(Norddeutsche Allgemeine Zeitung, 11th January 1915.)

W a r J o u r n a l.

1st January.

The Kaiser addresses a New Year's circular to the German army and navy.

The total amount of prisoners of war in Germany, at the end of the year 1914, is estimated at 8,138 officers and 577,875 men.

Renewed rising of the Boers; Oberst Maritz defeats the Government troops under Botha.

Dunkirch flown over by airmen, who threw bombs.

Russian attacks in the Carpathians repulsed.

In the Argonne the Germans push forward successfully.

The English battleship "Formidable" sunk in the Channel by a German submarine.

2nd January.

Further progress made in the Argonne.

Violent French attacks near Verdun and Ailly-Apremont driven back. The Bois Brule taken by us, after severe and long fighting.

The damage done to the English merchant marine and trade is estimated by the English, at more than 2 milliards marks.

3rd January.

A French Infantry attack to the North West of Ménéhould fails.

Borczynow, to the East of Lowicz captured by the German troops, 1,000 Russians taken prisoners.

German progress to the East of the Rawka.

Lt.-General von Moltke appointed Deputy Chief of the General Staff. Freiherr von Manteuffel as Deputy in Command General of the XIV. Army Corps.

Austro-Hungarian progress at Gorlice (Galicia).

4th January.

Renewed fighting at Thann and Steinbach (Upper Alsace.)

Reports as to the activity of the part of the Emden's crew, which had escaped.

German Civil-Administration in Poland. Herr von Brandenstein appointed Administrator in Chief.

5th January.

A French attack between Steinbach and Uffholz driven back.
Continued German progress East of the Rawka.

6th January.

German successes in the Argonne and Souain.
The Germans attack from the Rawka to the Sucha, 1,400
Russians taken prisoners.
Soissons shelled again.

7th January.

Villages in the rear of the German West front partly destroyed
by English and French artillery.
Urmia in northern Persia occupied by the Turks.
The "entrenchment friendships" forbidden.

8th January.

Progress made at Rawa: 2,000 Russians and 7 machine guns
captured.

The Boer leader Maritz defeats South African Government
troops, in the Orange Free State.

In the Carpathians (Bukowina) the advanced Austrian troops
retreat to the principal passes owing to far superior Russian
strength.

General Joffre tries to excite the rage of his troops by spread-
ing the report that the Germans have all prisoners shot.

German airmen appear again over Dunkirk throwing bombs.

9th January.

The Russians repulsed by the Austrians at Czeremcha, 400
prisoners taken.

Grand-Duke Alexander Michailowitsch killed.

Japan sells the entire ammunition booty of Tsingtau to England.

French attacks at Soissons and camp of Chalons repulsed.

1,200 prisoners taken at a successful attack in the Argonne.

The French driven back from Upper-Burnhaupt, almost
200 prisoners taken.

10th January.

Renewed Russian attempts to cross the Nida were repulsed;
violent artillery duels at different points.

Successful advance of the Germans in the Argonne.

16 German air-craft machines over Dunkirk.

11th January.

A third attempt of the Russians to cross the Nida fails, owing to our artillery.

Violent artillery duels to the South of the Vistula.

In the Carpathians the Russians withdraw toward the Uzsoker Pass.

12th January.

First day of the battle of Soissons:

The heights of Crouy and Cuffies taken in storm from the French: 1,700 French taken prisoners; 4 cannons and several machine guns captured.

A French attack near Perthes successfully repelled.

German success in the Argonne.

Unsuccessful Russian attacks take place in Northern Poland.

Heavy Russian losses at Przemysl.

Fresh artillery fighting reported from the Nida.

13th January.

Second day of the battle of Soissons:

The heights of Vregny cleared of the enemy under the very eyes of the Kaiser. 1,150 men were taken prisoners, 4 cannons and 4 machine guns captured.

A French attack near La Bassée fails.

Change in the Ministry of Austria-Hungary. Graf Berchtold succeeded by Baron Burian.

Renewed Russian attacks on the Nida repelled.

The Turks occupy Tabriz.

14th January.

Third day of the battle of Soissons:

Our troops magnificently storming, take Cuffies, Crouy, Bucy-le-Long, and Missy one after the other. From 12--14 January 5,200 French taken prisoners, 4,000--5,000 killed; 35 cannons captured.

The French defeated, to the East of Perthes.

Russian attacks at Gumbinnen and Lötzen have been repulsed.

Our attacks West of the Vistula are being continued.

Turkish successes reported from Persia and the Sinai Peninsula.

German submarines off Dover.

15th January.

Excitement in England on the "Hapag" steamer "Dacia" being bought by an American.

A French submarine destroyed in the vicinity of the Dardanelles.

Fighting takes place on the North West frontier of India.

The German War Loan rises above nominal value.

16th January.

Hostile attacks near Arras repulsed.

A fresh attack at St. Mihiel repelled.

Two Germans again condemned to death in Casablanca.

The Secretary of the State Treasury Kühn resigns his post on account of bad health. Prof. Dr. Helfferich, one of the Directors of the Deutsche Bank, appointed his successor. Official report according to which in East Africa from 3—5 November the English Expeditionary Corps of 8,000 men was completely routed by 2,000 Germans near Tanga, and forced back to the ships with heavy losses.

17th January.

The Austrian artillery is successfully fighting the Russians on the Dunajec.

A Zeppelin airship passed over Paris on a reconnoissance flight.

18th January.

According to the estimation of the German army administration, the enemy losses incurred on the occasion of Joffre's renewed attacks amount to 26,000 killed, 17,860 prisoners, showing a total of at least 150,000. Our losses at this time do not amount to a quarter of this number.

Successes reported from the Argonne and La Boisselle.

The Russians repulsed on the Wkra.

19th January.

The Russians repulsed in the Caucasus.

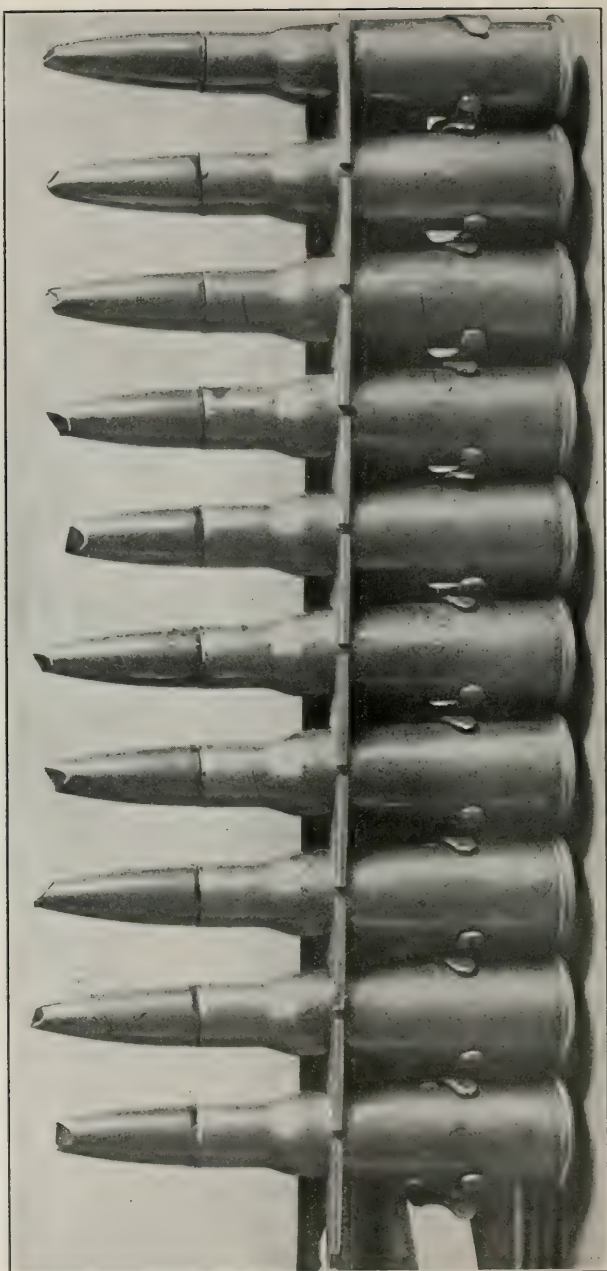
Minister von Loebell warns the population of the necessity of practising economy in regard to food stuffs.

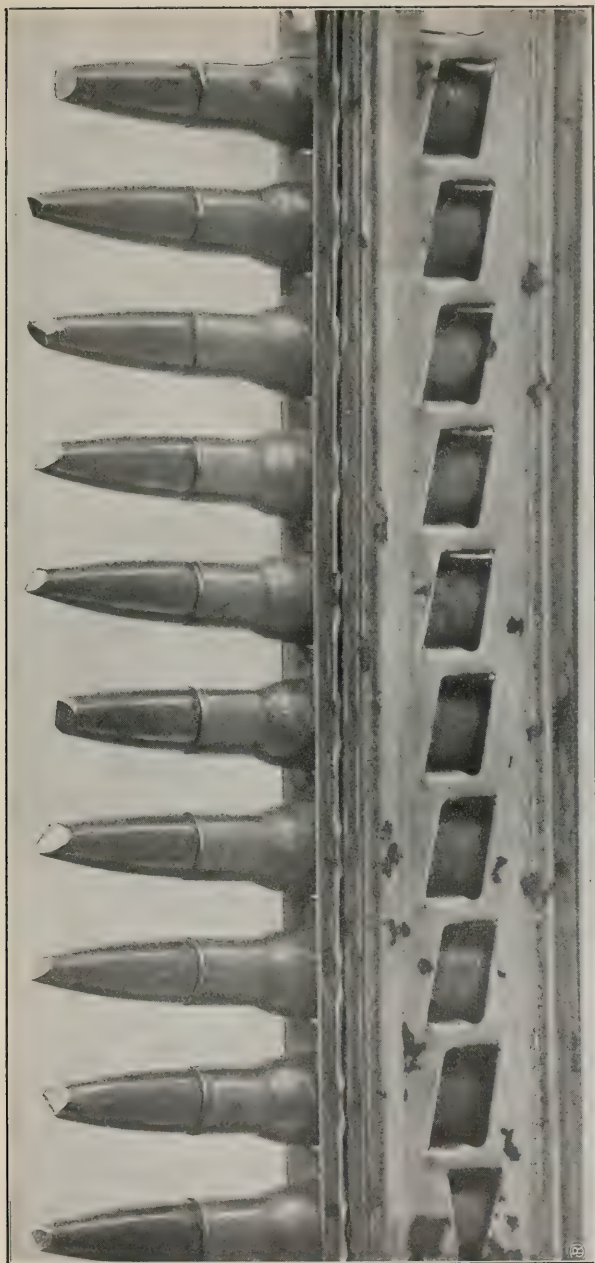
The Russians repulsed with heavy losses at Radzanow, Biezun, and Sierpo.



We gave Gold for Iron.

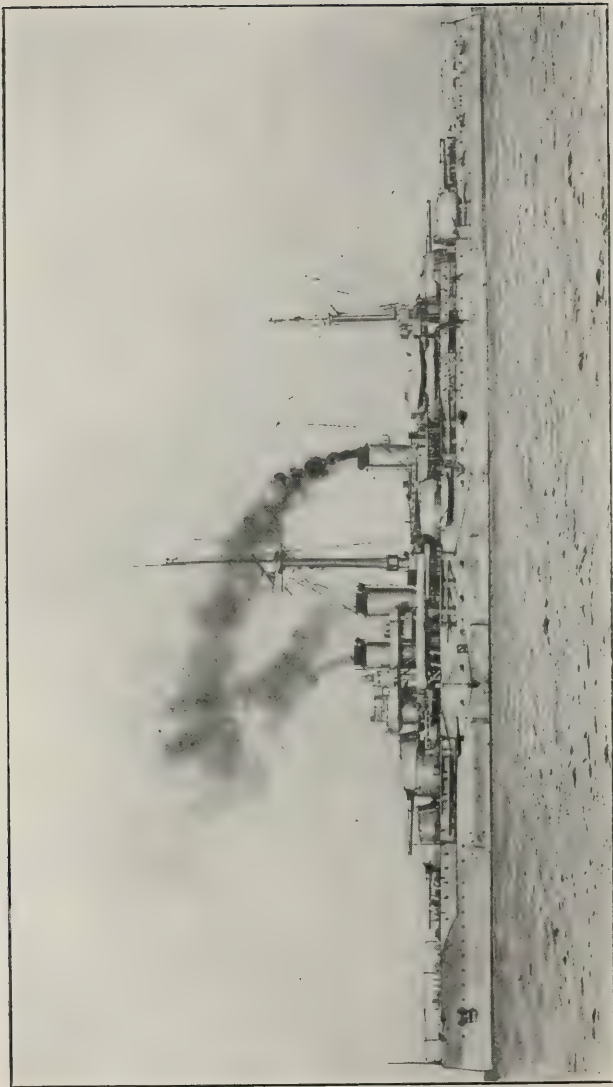
According to this motto, self-sacrificing German men and women brought numerous, valuable objects to a collecting depot, where they got rings of iron with this motto engraved on them.





Dumdum Bullets in Machine Guns.

The most unheard of action that the French army has been guilty of, is the use of Dumdum bullets in machine guns. In Houthulst, between Dixmuiden and Ronlers, our troops have found loading-strips for French machine guns, the bullets of which are pinched off, so as to cause severe wounds. When reminded of the fact that a machine gun can discharge up to 500 shots a minute, it can be seen what destruction these murderous weapons create.



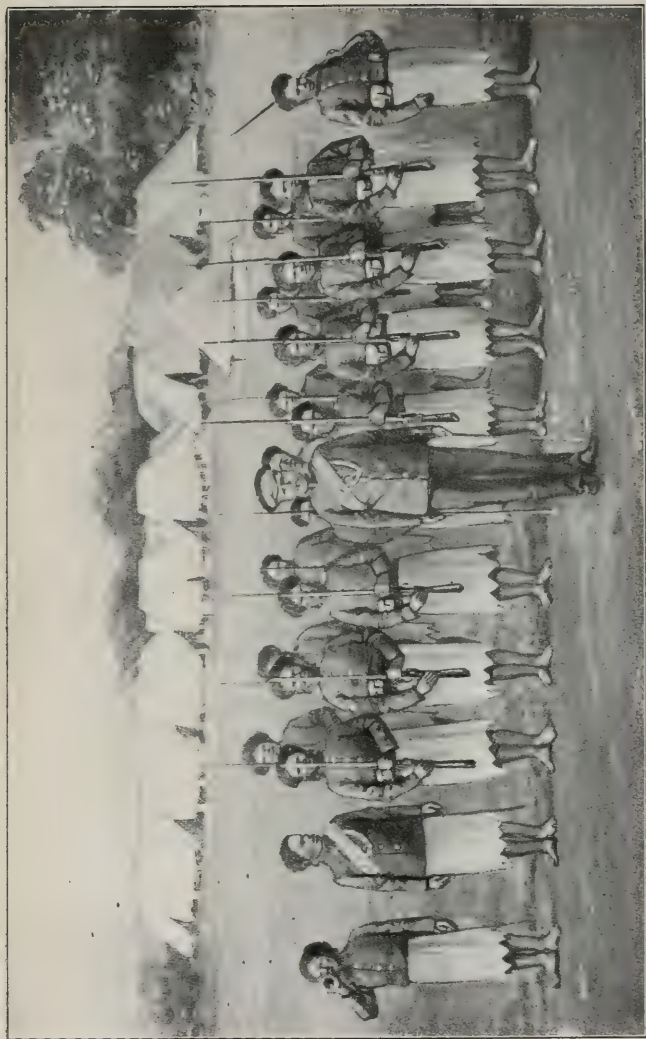
The French flag ship "Courbet" that was sunk by the Austrian submarine "U 12." "Courbet" and "Jean Bart" are sister ships and the first real dreadnoughts of the French fleet with a displacement of 23,500 tons. The dreadnought "Jean Bart" which rammed the "Courbet" while giving assistance, is now in Malta in dock. The French pretend that it is the flag ship "Courbet."



Types of English torpedo destroyers, one of which was sunk at the German Fleet's attack on Scarborough and Whitby; another was severely damaged.



The English battle ship "Formidable" that was sunk on New Year's night by a German submarine. The crew of 750 men were all lost except 71.



The Fiji-Islanders helping the English on the western theatre of war. The picture was produced by the "Daily Graphic" of 29th November. It was entitled:—"Fiji Contingent has asked for permission to go to the front." The Fijis used to be Canibals, but now they have left off barbarism and are for the most part Wesleyan Methodists. The picture shows the Fijis being drilled by an English instructor.



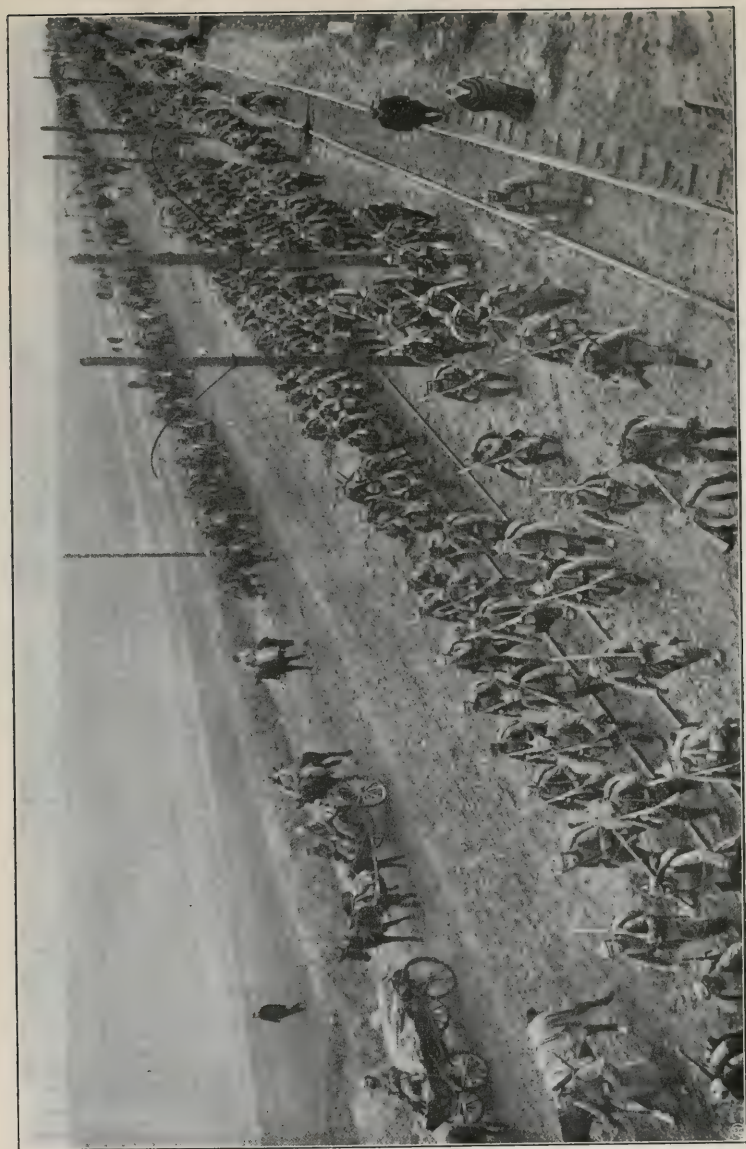
Picture of a wounded French prisoner-of-war, who has been photographed in the ambulance hospital I in Brussels. The prisoner, who is from Guinea (Africa), is officially reported to have said on examination, that there are Cannibals in his native place. He denies however, probably for obvious reasons, ever to have eaten human flesh himself. Whether the employment of this "wild man" on a European theatre of war is in accordance with the rules of international law or not, is doubtful. But it seems ridiculous, when the French and English in face of the fact that they bring beings of the lowest possible type, even Cannibals, to fight their enemies, continue stating that they are fighting for the promotion of culture.



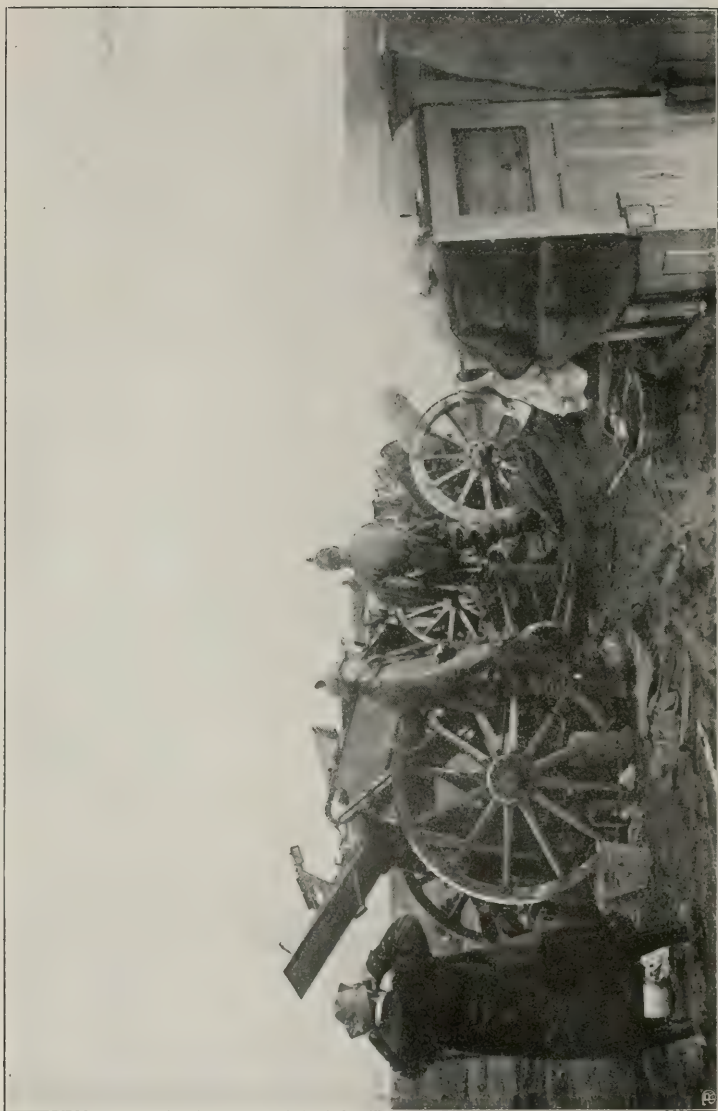
Picture of a prisoner from Senegal, who has been photographed in the ambulance hospital I in Brussels. Compare with adjoining picture.



German troops in the dug-outs evacuated by the Russians on their retreat. In the woods only small openings could be seen on the surface, while the dug-outs afford sufficient room for 6—8 men. The Russians are splendid builders of such field fortresses.



Advance of the German troops towards Warsaw.



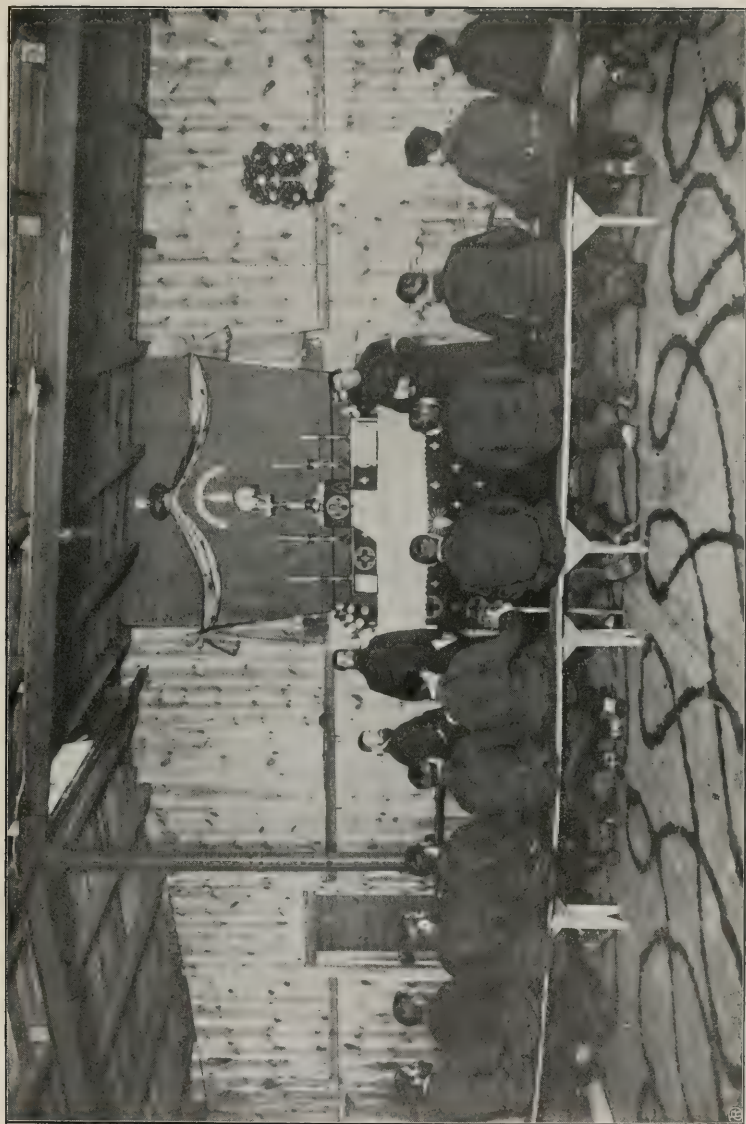
Position of a heavy artillery battery before Warsaw.



Austrian mines exploding at Przemyśl, which caused thousands of Russian soldiers to lose their lives. The after-effect of these mines on the Russian troops is noticeable at the present siege of Przemyśl.



Poor population before a church in Petersburg. According to the newspapers, depression is very great in Petersburg, as the winter has set in early and is very severe. The poorer population especially have to endure great sufferings owing to the war.



Russian prisoners in the camp at Zossen in a specially built Chapel attending Divine Service.



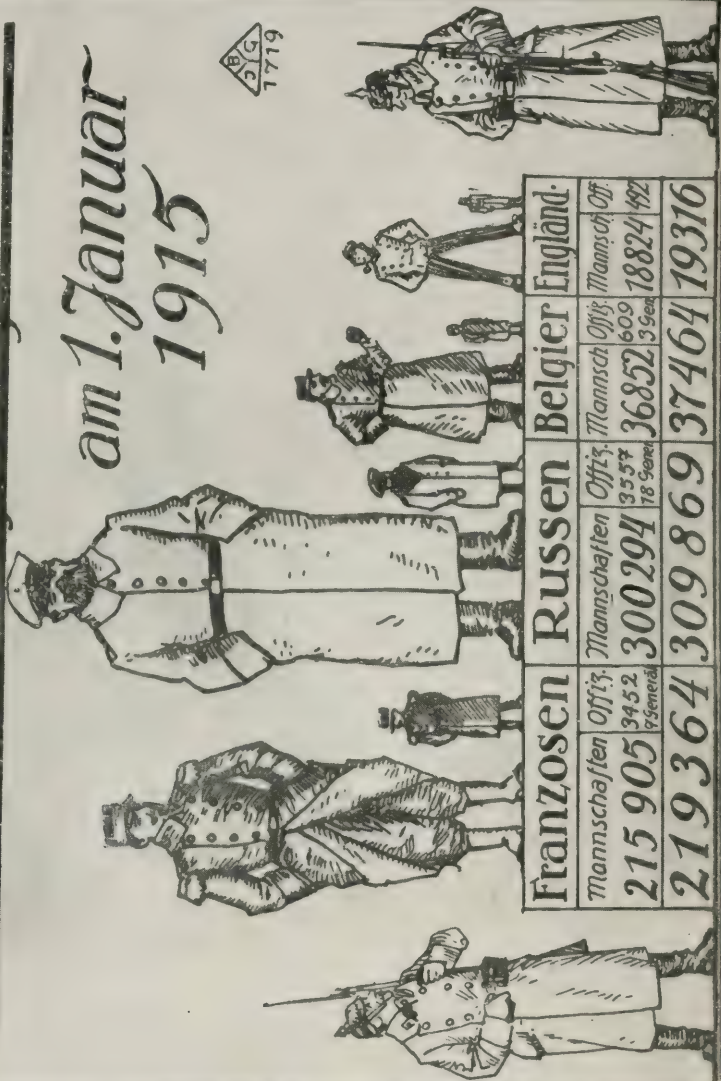
A French prisoner's (sculptor's) atelier in the camp at Zossen. The picture shows what scope is allowed to the prisoners for their individual talents and abilities.



Types of Russian prisoners now employed in Zossen as shoemakers.

unsere Gefangenen

am 1. Januar
1915



Franzosen	Russen	Belgier	England.
Mannschaften 215 905	Mannschaften 300 294	Mannsch. 368 52	Mannsch. 188 24
Offiz. 3452	Offiz. 3557	Offiz. 609	Off. 18824
General 19	General 18	General 3	General 492
219 364	309 869	374 64	19316

Statistics of the prisoners at present in Germany: French, Russians, Belgians, and English on
1st January 1915.

20th January.

Success reported from the Argonne.
The "Hirzstein" near Sennheim captured.

21st January.

Revolts reported from Lisbon against participation in the war.
Successful fighting on the Dunajec carried out by the Austro-Hungarian army.

The heir to the Austro-Hungarian throne starts for German Headquarters.

Zeppelin airships make an attack on the English East coast.
The airships were shot at, but returned uninjured.

French attacks at Arras-Lille repulsed, as well as at St. Mihiel and Berry-au-Bac.

At Pont-à-Mousson our troops captured 4 cannons.

22nd January.

Semi-official German declaration, against the American war supplies to our enemies.

The French repulsed at Pont-à-Mousson.

The "Hartmannsweilerkopf" near Sennheim captured.

Reports of progress on the Sucha.

The English steamer "Durward" sunk by a submarine.

23rd January.

The Russians retreat in the Caucasus.

A mutual loan amounting to 15 milliards is announced by the Entente Powers.

A hostile position captured in the Argonne. 3 officers, 245 men, and 4 machine guns taken.

24th January.

In the Argonne two French attacks easily repulsed—in the Vosges at the Hartmannsweilerkopf we made progress.

In the east a successful attack directed against the Sucha section near Borzymow.

Russian counter-attacks repulsed, the enemy suffering heavy losses.

In Galicia and the Carpathians the Austro-Hungarian troops continue to repel the Russian attacks.

German-English naval battle in the North Sea. One English battle cruiser and the German armoured cruiser "Blücher" sunk.

25th January.

Lively artillery duels in the neighbourhood of Nieuport and Ypres, as well as in the Argonne to the North of Verdun and Toul.

French attacks at Hartmannsweilerkopf repelled; the French suffering heavy losses.

Russian attacks repulsed at Gumbinnen, the enemy suffering great losses.

Official confirmation of the defeat suffered by the English at Sandfontein on 25th September 1914.

In the Carpathians, Russian counter-attacks, directed against the positions captured by the Austrians in the upper Ung-valley and near Bezerszallos repelled after violent fighting. More than 1,000 Russians taken prisoners.

Our light cruiser "Gazelle" slightly damaged off Rügen by an English submarine. No loss of life. "Gazelle" has returned to one of the Baltic harbours.

26th January.

To the South of the Canal at La Bassée the English surprised and defeated by the Baden troops in a front line of 1,100 metres. Two strong positions taken, three officers, 110 men made prisoners. Our losses slight.

In the Vosges all French attacks repulsed.

The Russians make an unsuccessful attack on our cavalry positions to the North of Gumbinnen.

In South Poland and Galicia artillery fighting continues.

Operations on both sides at a stand-still in the Caucasus owing to severe weather conditions.

27th January.

An attempt of the enemy to re-capture the positions which we took on 25th January at La Bassée, collapses under our artillery fire.

In the Argonne the Saxons make a successful storm attack.

The Russian attacks to the North East of Gumbinnen were unsuccessful, the enemy suffering heavy losses.

In the Upper Ung-valley our allies re-capture the Uzsoker Pass, which had been occupied by the Russians since New Year.

28th January.

On the heights of Craonne we captured entrenchments of 500 metres. The French losses between 25th—27th January here, amounted to 1,500 killed and 1,100 prisoners.

In the Vosges and Upper Alsace, French attacks repelled, the enemy suffering very heavy losses.

Our Allies report new successes in the Carpathians against the Russians. The Nagy-Ag-Valley cleared of the enemy. At Bezerszallos and Bolowec the Russians lost 700 men and 5 machine guns.

29th January.

The French fortress of Dunkirque bombarded by German aeroplanes, a generous portion of bombs distributed on the English bases erected there.

To the South of the La Bassée Canal an English attempt to recapture positions we had taken from them, easily repulsed.

Renewed Russian attacks fail at Gumbinnen, the enemy sustaining heavy casualties.

North East of Bolinow the Germans drove the enemy from his advanced positions and penetrated into the Russian main position.

It is reported on reliable authority that a Parseval airship, which started on 25th January on an expedition against the Russian fortified harbour Libau, has not returned, having probably been brought down by enemy guns and fallen into the sea.

The Russians again defeated in the Carpathians to the West of the Uzsoke Pass. 400 prisoners taken.

30th January.

To the South of the La Bassée Canal our troops captured two more trenches. In the western part of the Argonne a German attack resulted in the gain of a considerable stretch of ground; 12 officers and 731 men were taken prisoners, 12 machine guns and 10 light guns captured. French night attacks to the South East of Verdun have been repulsed, the enemy suffering heavy losses. The enemy driven back from Angomont near Badonviller; Angomont has been occupied by the Germans.

The Russians attempted several attacks to the East of Darkehmen and South East of Lake Löwentin. Russian night attacks near Borzymow were repulsed with heavy losses for the enemy.

31st January.

The Kaiser comes to Berlin for a short stay.

The German authorities prescribe unity in the baking of bread.

The secretary of the Imperial Treasury Kühn retires from office.

Great Austrian success in the Carpathians: 10,000 Russians taken prisoners.

The foreign Consuls leave Tangers.

A French torpedo boat destroyed off Nieuport.

German Soldiers' Letters

published in the press by the Soldiers' parents and relations.

1. From the Western Seat of War.

A vivid Picture of the Fighting in the Vicinity of Ypres

can be had from the following field letter:

The obstinate fighting, which rages for every foot of ground here around Ypres, can clearly be seen from the following occurrence. We have given up pressing back the enemy by storming, which caused so many casualties and now try to drive him out of the trenches by sapping, i.e. by digging so-called saps, from our own entrenchments to the enemy's, and then pressing on into the enemy's entrenchment. Pioneers and infantry men vie with each other in accomplishing this difficult and dangerous task. Besides the hostile artillery with its murderous grenades they have to fear mines and a probable advance of the enemy from his entrenchments. It was under such conditions that the Fifth Company, which had already been greatly praised by the General, and the Seventh Company of the Reserve infantry regiment . . . sapped from an entrenchment in the neighbourhood of M . . . towards the enemy's position, so as to cut off part of this entrenchment from the others and then take it by storm.

On the evening of December 2nd, the Seventh Company had sapped up quite near to the enemy's entrenchments and was ready to break through. The Fifth Company had yet to dig some yards. Suddenly the gallant and brave leader of the Fifth, Lt. Dr. R . . . from Hamburg, made up his mind to attack. The Seventh were to break through, while R . . . with seven of his faithful men were to jump over the short space, which separated them from the enemy's entrenchment. Things were like this, in the evening about 6 o'clock. Once more the leader of the Fifth Company inspects his small, but brave band. He sees only brave, decided countenances. What may be awaiting them? Have mines been laid so that they are all doomed to Death? Will the French meet these courageous fellows with one of their well-aimed volleys? But R . . . does not take much time for thinking. A short admonition—a sharp command—then the heroes with quick step dash through the space and jump one after the other into the enemy's trench. At first all was still. What has happened? But soon the voice of the company's leader can be heard. He summons the French, who have made no resistance, to surrender, and one after another they come out of

their dug-outs, into which they had crept when the seven "Field-grays" had so suddenly appeared before them and begged for mercy: "Pardon, pardon, camarades, nous sommes des pères de famille" are the cries which can be heard from the surprised. Quite a number of prisoners are taken without any bloodshed, part of the enemy's entrenchments captured and this, all as a consequence of the plucky, judicious advance led by the leader of the Fifth. All the participators were decorated with the well-earned Iron Cross. What a loss this part of the entrenchment was for the enemy, was only proved on the following evening, on which the "Red breeches" decided on a desperate attack, which, however, was repulsed, as we on our side, were well on our guard. Day and night the entrenchments were full of "Fieldgrays" and when the expected happened, a few volleys drove the enemy back. The French suffered very heavy losses, while on our side the lists of dead and wounded on both days were small.

The behaviour of the hostile artillery was interesting. It shot like mad at our old position during the whole affair, while we had pressed forward and were in the trenches, which up to then had been the enemy's. But it either did not know of this, or did not dare to bring fire on the new position on account of its being so near its own entrenchments. However, the old entrenchments got more than their share of the murderous grenades, but that could not harm us any more and it encouraged all those, who were in the trenches these days, as it seemed, the powerless rage of the French was the cause of all this firing. One lesson can be learned from the above circumstance, as we already hinted, that instead of attacks with heavy casualties, now and then an advance, as described above, can be carried out with far less danger and quite as much success.

(*Kreuzzeitung*, 3rd January 1915.)

Christmas opposite the Enemy.

Main Headquarters, December 26.

On Christmas Eve the commander of the regiment, which afforded me hospitality in its position opposite the enemy, gave a splendid supper—very good roast goose, if I am not mistaken, Munich bottled beer, and as dessert, Nürnberger Lebkuchen out of the Colonel's own Christmas box, as well as a very good punch. The recipe for the latter was supplied by the regimental doctor and carried out by the practiced hand of the regiment's A. D. C. The punch was not prepared with simple hot water, as is otherwise often the case, but with weak tea. *Probatum erat and prae-sente medico*, it would not have done me any harm, if the Christmas celebration in the Colonel's dug-out had lasted a little longer, than it really did. But my visit to a neighbouring regiment had

greatly fatigued me—I was on my legs from 9 o'clock in the morning till towards 7 in the evening without once being able to sit down—and the Christmas celebration over in the wood had caused me deep emotion; so I took leave and went to rest in the dug-out of the commander of the first battalion, who had given me a Spartan resting place next his own, just as Spartanly hard field bed.

In the four days, during which Major afforded me hospitality “Woher er kam der Fahrt und was sein Nam’ und Art” I shall relate below, the reader will then understand why I intentionally quote Wagner, I have really learned to rest on my hard couch that had only a thin layer of straw, enveloped in the Major’s mantle and a woollen rug, learned not only to rest, but to sleep—to sleep booted and spurred in my field uniform, which in spite of all its dirt I have not parted from, for a moment. That I have so learned, the Major himself must confess, as every morning he declared in the presence of his Adjutant and the Secretary of the battalion that I had snored dreadfully during the night. The account of my sleeping well is bomb-proof sure, unlike the dug-outs of the regiment, which are quite in the range of the enemy’s artillery fire, and anything but bomb-proof. They only afford protection against splinters, coming from the enemy’s grenades—if you happen to be inside. But if you are outside, it is possible to make disagreeable acquaintance with them, even with the enemy’s rifle bullets, which stray now and then in this vicinity. It has really happened that a righteous Landwehrmann on his way to a certain place, was overtaken by an enemy’s rifle bullet and injured just in that part of his body that in a certain place the reader will understand!—

However one grows accustomed to those trifles by degrees, if one is not dogged by bad luck like that poor devil, I for my part slept soundly. On Christmas Eve at first there was not much sleep, for in the Major’s dug-out I found the Staff of the battalion and the officers of the Company assembled, and we again had excellent punch and dainty cakes, some “Streusselkuchen” even, that had been kept over from the recent birthday celebration of the commander of the battalion. Besides all this, clever discussions on war and politics, art and literature, and before we noticed it, midnight was long past, when we retired to our couches to go to sleep.

Altogether, was it not a very nice War Christmas in presence of the enemy?

The dawn of Christmas morning, which followed on the cold starry night, was magnificent. Dark deep night still in the West! In the East however, a faint streak of light appeared in the Heaven and in this light spot, brightly shimmering, Venus appeared at the edge of the dark deep forest and beamed like a smaller sun. In the same way, now almost 2,000 years ago, the Star of Bethlehem

may have appeared to the wise men from the East, to guide them on their journey to the Christmas Babe.

Later on, the sun rose clear and bright in the deep blue firmament, flashing millions of glittering sparks from the light coat of frost, which had spread in the cold night on the grass and branches of the trees, sending down its rays alike on friend and foe. A picture of Christmas peace everywhere! In the South West however, the muffled roar of French cannons could be heard.—

On a grass spot in the forest, we had our Christmas service. It was held according to Catholic ritus by the Divisional Chaplain, who, I have been told, belongs to the Order of Jesuits. I am not a Catholic and we have fought against the Jesuits energetically. But I admit, that never have I been present at a more touching service than this one, on this War Christmas morning. The Priest in his white vestments celebrated Mass at a simple altar, which had been formed out of the branches of Christmas trees. The whole military congregation accompanied by the regimental music sang the old and well-known hymns: "Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht" and "Es ist ein Ros' entsprungen." Then came the sermon. Plain and simple, as was suitable for the soldiers, yet teeming with noble thoughts of true human feeling of good comradeship and fellow feeling for the hearers, all delivered in very good oratory. And well the clergyman knew, how to appeal to and attract the attention of his congregation. When he spoke to them of their dear ones at home, when he painted for them the simple far-off cottage in the woods on a mountain slope, giving them the comforting assurance that to-day under the Christmas tree they would be remembered with double love and affection by their dear ones at home; when he warned them to make their peace with God, so that they could depart in peace, in case the heavy Fate of war should be theirs. — At these words the deep emotion on all faces could easily be remarked, and many a bright tear be seen running down the wild warlike beards. At the end, the tones of the powerful "Tedeum laudamus" resounded and from the triumphant strains of "Grosser Gott, wir loben dich" a firm confidence in victory, a firm will to conquer could almost be heard.

After the service we had a simple breakfast with the commander, during which the regimental band played Christmas melodies before his house, then a short and hearty leave taking from the kind gentleman and his gallant officers, and away to the commander of the brigade, whom I wished to thank personally for the kind recommendations, which he had given me to his regiments.

The Staff of the brigade had celebrated Christmas in the interpretation of our Saviour's beautiful words: "Suffer the little children to come unto me." The general had invited several French war widows with their children to the Christmas celebration, and under

the light of the Christmas tree had given them all kinds of useful presents. The astonishment of the little ones at the brightly lighted tree was, as the general himself told me, as touching as the gratitude of the mothers, after which the Army Chaplain explained to them in French the meaning of the German Christmas and tried to comfort them in their sorrow.

* * *

This was how I spent Christmas in this war year 1914 and it was, I repeat, the Christmas on which I felt the meaning of the festival more than ever before.

(*R. Cuno in the Vossische Zeitung, 2nd January 1915.*)

In the Service of Mercy.

One of the members of a Saxon ambulance corps in the West sends us the following description of how difficult a task the stretcher-bearers and ambulance men have, who have to go out as far as the front trenches.

... "The music dies away. The old comrades' march was the last piece played. The day is slowly drawing to a close. Troops that have been relieved march into the village to their quarters. Now our work begins. Now it is that we, a company of ambulance men, go out on the battle field. The night is ours. It is only possible to do our duties in the dark.—We start, behind us the ambulance carts. It is 7 o'clock and quite dark. After marching for half an hour, we come into the range of the enemy's artillery. A locomotive whistles, it is our track, the terminus is in our village. In the distance we hear thundering: "Evening greetings from the French!"—High above us a 15.4-cm. shell whizzes by, it seems as if the whistling of the locomotive has got on the enemies' nerves. Their greatest sorrow is, that up to this, their shells have not damaged the railway embankment. Our engineers have built it too massively! We continue on our march; not a ray of light to guide us. We meet some of the field-kitchens, they are coming back, like ourselves, they can only bring food to the comrades in the dark. Now the moon rises, and lights up to the village lying before us. Shelled houses, trees torn up, broken carts, a varied picture! Sentries move about here and there like ghosts. Away from the uncanny village! We now arrive at cross roads, a patrol of Hussars asks the way. The street leads us into a wood, the carriages are stopped, it is 9 o'clock.

It is now that our activity begins. The stretchers are taken out, four men told off for each, and now we start along the slippery forest paths—on to the trenches. For the last few days

it has been raining. The mud is ankle deep, but we go on across the field. Suddenly a fire ball whizzes by, high over our heads: we lie flat on the French chalky ground. Then on again, till at last we reach the dug-out. Now we are there with the inhabitants of the trenches and caves. We come into one of the communication trenches, which, while affording us complete cover, leads out to another trench. It takes us a long time before we arrive at the front entrenchment. A real field fortress with shooting gaps. We wade through some water and then see ourselves face to face with some stone walls. It is a shelled French inn with only a few of its walls left standing. 80 yards across the way the enemy is situated. There are wire entanglements erected between the two entrenchments. Psh—psh! Some infantry bullets whizz over our heads.

Halt! We have arrived at our goal. Now down to the cellar of the inn, where the wounded have been laid. Somebody takes out a pocket lanterne; the wounded are placed as quietly as possible on the stretchers—the staircase down to the cellar increases the difficulties of the transport—then back to our cart, it is impossible to take the way through the entrenchments when the wounded are lying on the stretchers, so we must go across the fields. Whenever the moon hides behind the clouds for a while, we go forward: Proceed! Stop! Lay down! Up again! Proceed! Now and then, we must make a detour on account of enormous holes caused by shells. Here we can see the effect of the heavy English marine artillery. We go across turnip fields and brushwood, stopping to rest for a few moments in a forsaken artillery position. At last we have reached the wood, now we have protection here, from the infantry fire and can proceed more easily, so that we soon reach our ambulance carts: into which the wounded are quietly and carefully laid, all being done without any light. Every one has his work cut out. Everything is carefully avoided, every jerk, or unnecessary movement, so as not to increase the pain of the wounded. At midnight the last carriage is laden; now we start back to the ambulance. The wounded are taken from us, laid on straw and freshly bandaged, then the doctor's activity begins. When the last wounded man has been looked after, our work is done. At 2 o'clock we have finished and go home to our billets. A short rest and then our work begins again. Now the wounded have to be brought from the ambulance to the railway station. A hospital train rolls into the station, the beds are filled and the train moves off with the wounded, bringing them to their homes. But we stand for a long time looking after it, thinking quietly of a beautiful journey along the Mosel, past the vineyards—on towards the Rhine and further to our beloved home.

(Leipziger Neueste Nachrichten, 4th January 1915.)

How a German "Hun" saved an Englishman's Life.

Accounts can now frequently be found in the English Press, which flatly contradict the gruesome tales of the "Hun's cruelty." One especially touching example of German kindness can be found in a letter written by a soldier belonging to the Coldstream Guards, one of the English crack regiments. The man, by name John Smith, writes that the Germans attacked early in the morning, but were driven back after some violent hand to hand fighting.

"We jumped into their trenches," writes Smith, "and I was just about to jump, when a grenade burst quite near. When I regained consciousness, I discovered that I was lying in one of the German trenches and a German soldier was bandaging up my head. Fighting was still going on, but the German refused to leave me, until I was better and could lie quietly. Then he went along the trench to have a lookout. The fighting seemed to have grown more distant, and I thought I was alone. All round I could hear the sighs and groans of the wounded and dying, which continued all through the night. Then my head began to pain me badly, and I became unconscious. When I awoke, I found the German still beside me. His grey uniform was soaked with blood and his overcoat riddled with bullets. In spite of it all, he tried to help me and brought me a cup of water to quench my thirst and refresh me.

(Vossische Zeitung, 6th January 1915.)

An Army that prays cannot be conquered!

The following extract is from a letter written by Rev. Ludger-Schwering, M. S. C., who is on service with one of the Maltese ambulances in 3rd Army. (The letter is dated: Vouziers, 13th December 1914.)

You have often had an opportunity of seeing that we Priests are able to do a great deal of good. From Pater Zaun's short report you could see what a pleasure our priestly hearts can sometimes experience. I was lucky enough now and then to be present on such occasions; but yesterday and to-day surpassed all that has taken place up to this. Hauptmann Sieger (from Cologne) had asked me to come to St. Marie on Saturday, as a great many soldiers wished to go to confession. When I heard that there were about 4 ammunition columns there, I took Pater Simon along with me. At 3 o'clock the carriage was before our door and we started. After an hour's drive through the turnip fields, we arrived in St. Marie and were very kindly received by the captain, whom I had met before. We went at once to the confessionals, as the church was already filled with our gallant "Fieldgreys." There was certainly much joy in Heaven at the penitential procession of the German

warriors. For many,—for most of them in fact, it was the first opportunity of going to confession since the first days of August. Towards 7 o'clock one of them began to recite the rosary with the variations:—"He, who will bring us to victory and peace"—"He, who will give our comrades at the front courage and perseverance"—"He, who will bring comfort and help to our wounded comrades"—"He, who will grant eternal rest to the souls of our fallen comrades"—"He, who will bless and protect our dear ones at home." And with what simplicity and confidence did they pray! Then they sang one of the old Advent Hymns, and a Hymn to the Mother of God. After the rosary some war prayers were recited. Then the brave warriors said the "Angelus" standing and finished up by loudly singing: "Fest soll mein Taufbund immer stehen." And this has been going on, as I learned later on from the captain for the past two months! No, an army that says such prayers cannot be destroyed.—At 8,30 p.m. we finished up, as we wanted to have supper with the officers and then drive back to Vouziers, because in St. Marie "there was no room in the inn," but we sat so comfortably and had such a pleasant evening that it was 10,30 p.m. before we noticed the time. We were then forced to break up and came safely past all the outposts on our way back to Vouziers. The following Sunday morning I took small Hosts with me and at 7,30 the carriage again stood before the door. On arriving in St. Marie, I went at once to the confession-box, while Pater Simon celebrated a Low Mass, so 'as to consecrate the Hosts and give Holy Communion to those, who had prepared for it. The curé of the place, a very kind and vivacious gentleman, also helped to distribute the Bread of Life to the German warriors. He was quite touched by the soldiers' piety. At 9 o'clock I began to celebrate Mass for the soldiers. Oh, how they sang "Tauet, Himmel, den Gerechten!" It probably never came from the depth of their souls as much as now in the enemy country. When I ascended the pulpit after the Gospel, it was not difficult for me to appeal to the hearts of my dear comrades. I had chosen as text the words of St. Peter:—"Fürchte Gott und ehre den König." They listened quietly and full of attention to the words of the preacher, standing crowded, up to the communion rails. And when the Holy Sacrifice was continued, they followed it with prayers and hymns. I was overjoyed and moved to the depths of my soul at being able to give the Bread of Heaven to so many. More than 500 German warriors had been to Holy Communion. And when I gave them the blessing, they were strengthened in the name of the Holy Trinity and wound up with the hymn "Grosser Gott, wir loben dich!" Supported by the strength of the God of battles they left the sanctuary of God, with confident hearts and unsullied shields. We remained and joyfully said the "Benedicte." It was with happy hearts that we drove back to our quarters at Vouziers. That was indeed a Sunday "Gaudete," a prelude to the high feast of our dear Saviour.—

Dear Father . . . , I know what a great interest you take in all that we are doing here for the honour of God and the welfare of the German warriors. We know too, that you beg God to bless and protect us . . .

With kindest regards to all

Yours in J. C.

P. Ludger Schwering, M. S. C.

(*Westfälischer Merkur*, 5th January 1915.)

2. From the Eastern Seat of War.

A Russian Experience.

A Musketeer, who was wounded in one of the battles in the East and spent a short time in Russian captivity, describes his experiences in the following letter to his family:

. . . . "At 6 a.m. we went forward without hindrance, covering 5 kilometres. Suddenly the enemy began to fire on our right flank. We were in such a swamp that we could neither go backwards nor forwards. The first section quickly took possession of a farm about a hundred metres off, and at once fierce firing began. The Russians were right behind it and assisted by their greater strength and machine guns (we had none), tried to force us back. I was lying on the ground, but as I could not take proper aim, I stood up and fired. Hardly had I shot three times, when a bullet grazed my face and head. My right eye was wounded and there I lay unconscious. As our troops were so weak, they were forced to retreat. The wounded and any that remained, were taken prisoners, so the Russians took me along too. It was about 4 o'clock in the afternoon when I regained consciousness and discovered what a plight I was in. My coat and mantle looked purple, so saturated were they with blood. We went on like this for about 2 kilometres until I grew too weak, and broke down completely. As the Russians were now being pursued, they left me lying on the road. A Russian man came along, took pity on me, brought me to his house and gave me a comfortable bed, but as the blood was still flowing freely from my wounds, he had not the courage to bind them for me. So there I lay, thinking I should bleed to death, as I was too weak to bandage up the wounds myself. I turned round and lay on the wounded side, but in less than half an hour was obliged to free the wounds again, as the blood was so copious in my nose and mouth, that I thought I should smother. What was to be done? As well as I could, I made my host understand that I required some vinegar and clean linen, which he brought me, so I stilled the blood and bandaged up my wounds as well

as I could myself. I then went to sleep and did not awake for 36 hours. To my great joy I received a visit from a German artillery man, who bandaged up my wounds afresh and advised me to make for the nearest field hospital. Before starting I had some potatoes and milk, and on going to the cart, put my hand in my pocket to give some money to my host in return for all his trouble. But alas! all my money was gone, and as I felt for my watch, it was gone too. I understood now, I had been robbed, but there was no help for it, so I quickly got up on the cart and drove off. It was about 10 p.m. when we arrived at the hospital. In a few days we were sent on again and on the ninth day we at last reached our beloved country.

In Wreschen we were freed from our real Russian dirt and again had beds to sleep in. Here I very soon forgot all my pain and in three days we were sent on in a hospital train, via Posen, Frankfurt a. O., Berlin, Magdeburg, to Brunswick. Here I was placed in Dr. M... 's eye-hospital. The Doctor himself is a splendid man, the treatment and food excellent."

(Schlesische Zeitung, 13th January 1915.)

3. From the Fleet.

Letter from an Eye-witness describing the Sea-fight off the Chilean Coast.

(On board the cruiser "Leipzig.")

The Chief Naval Engineer and Machinist of the cruiser "Leipzig," Karl Ed. Hahn, the day after the big sea battle off Chile, wrote the following letter to his wife in Danzig. (The "Leipzig" has since after heroic fighting been sunk near the Falkland Islands.)

Near Valparaiso, 2nd November 1914.

My dear wife,

To-day at last, I have something to report. You will probably have read in the papers that on 1st November we engaged in our first action. At last, at last my great desire has been fulfilled! That roving about without encountering serious action was simply detestable. We expected to arrive near Coronel some time about 4 p.m. on Sunday; but just the night before one of my engines went out of order, however as the damage was slight, we had it fixed up by 2 a.m. and were able to continue our journey for 12 hours without any interruption. On Sunday morning we had again some trouble with the machines, we had already done nearly ten million rotations, which at another time might be the record for

3 years. We very soon put all in order again and I went down to dinner full of confidence. The commander dined with us, so once more we ate and drank well, but moderately. At 3 p.m. I lay down on the sofa, began to read my beloved Ibsen (Felden's edition) and thought of my Erika. At 4 p.m. I got up and instinctively dressed myself for battle. In the morning we had been told off to follow a sailing vessel, which carried the Chilean flag. About midday the "Nürnberg" was sent after another ship, which turned out to be an English sailing vessel, which she captured. We lost sight of the "Nürnberg" after that. In the afternoon the "Dresden" set out after a steamer that also hoisted a neutral flag, so that she was also a considerable distance from us. At about 4 p.m. "Scharnhorst," "Gneisenau," and we steamed on "line ahead." We were in the mess room drinking coffee when we received the command: "Steamer in sight, 'Leipzig' to keep watch!" We began to joke and I said "I do hope that this is a war ship at last." A few minutes later "Clear ship for action" was the command. The steamer had been recognized as an English cruiser. Now every man rushed to his post and a last look round to see that everything was in order occupied the next hour. Shortly after 5 o'clock, as there was still nothing to be seen, I went up on deck. Suddenly we heard the cries: "Two cruisers—three cruisers—four ships in sight!" In a very short time we were able to recognize them as the English armoured cruisers "Good Hope," "Monmouth," the smaller cruiser "Glasgow," and an auxiliary cruiser. Up to this we had not considered matters as being serious, but now we began to think of our situation and it looked earnest, for though the two armoured cruisers were somewhat weaker than our "big brothers," the "Glasgow" was much stronger, and in the absence of the "Nürnberg" and "Dresden" the auxiliary cruiser was one more against us. About 5.30 p.m. the fighting began. The condition of the weather, which was sunny with a very heavy sea, obliged us to press forward at full speed. It was fully an hour till we got to within 9,000—7,900 metres range of the enemy. At 6.35 p.m. the first shot was fired. The machines groaned and heaved. The sea was so rough that every few minutes the screw was dashed out of the water and then parts of the machinery whirled and buzzed in such a manner that I really felt alarmed. It is difficult in such a moment of peril to feel that one bears the whole burden of responsibility, but on the other hand it keeps one from worrying over unnecessary trifles. I cannot say how pleased I was with my men, they were calm and good humoured, as if at manœuvres, did their duty to the sound of our guns and the bellowing of the 21-cm. of our big brothers. Every now and then, we could hear the dull, different tones of the enemy's guns, but they always fired short of us. So the minutes flew by and after half an hour there was a short pause, at least for us, for about 10 minutes later we got the news that one of the

English ships was burning, and a few minutes after that: "One of the big English ships has exploded!" It happened like this: immediately after the second volley, fire broke out on the "Good Hope." The flames could be seen darting out from different places during the fighting so that at last the whole was burning brightly. On the "Monmouth" an explosion took place towards the end of the fight. It seems that a powder magazine was blown up, as we could see a pillar of fire about 30 m. in height and 20 m. in diameter, mixed with blue, green, and red flames, followed by a dense cloud of smoke. This cloud of smoke was unfortunately favoured by a thick black rainbow, which enveloped the enemy and prevented our seeing anything more.

I forgot to mention that the "Dresden" had followed us at full speed and helped in the fighting, upon which the English auxiliary cruiser promptly disappeared. We now found ourselves overtaken by darkness, without a trace of the enemy, and we got orders to proceed to a torpedo attack. As we had to separate in all directions, following this or the other shadow, we found ourselves in a pretty uncomfortable situation. We saw ourselves surrounded by four ships, without knowing whether they were friend or foe. Of course we could not give signals:—altogether we were in a nice fix. At last the "Scharnhorst" gave signs of recognition and rallied us.

Half an hour before, a short but violent fight had taken place on the horizon. The "Nürnberg" had come up with the "Monmouth," which had listed to one side, but in spite of the violent explosion had not yet sunk, and opening fire on her in a short time destroyed her, so that she sank, keel upwards with her 550 men. This was of course the definite result. What the end of the burning "Good Hope" may have been, we do not know. The "Glasgow" and the auxiliary cruiser got off safely, as they were only slightly damaged. We searched for them the whole night, but without success. Our damages were slight: On the "Leipzig" a flag line was shot through. The "Scharnhorst" was hit in the bow causing a small hole, and one of her funnels had a hole. "Gneisenau" was hit ineffectively on one of her armour-plates. "Dresden" and "Nürnberg" had no damages worth relating.—Now we are waiting for the next batch of English.

You see, my dear wife, we can do something, so be of good cheer and have confidence in the future!"

(Berliner Tageblatt, 3rd January 1915.)

The Second Attack on the English Coast.

(A combatant's letter.)

We now have one of the first reports of the attack made by our fleet, on 16th December on Hartlepool and Scarborough, which is sent by one of the men, who took part in the daring adventure.

The contents of the letter published in the "Hannoverschen Courier" are as follows:

"We had put out to sea with several other ships and taken the course towards the English coast. Each of the ships that took part in the expedition, had its own special work to do, and on Wednesday morning, at the same time, all were to bombard the three large coast towns Hartlepool, Scarborough and Whitby, in order to destroy the signalling stations, harbour constructions, and military buildings, as well as to silence the coast and strand batteries. We approached our common goal, the English coast, without any incidents of importance. Under cover of night we steamed on, with all lights shut down, so that no ray or shimmer should betray our presence, and were successful in gliding through the hostile chain of patrols without being noticed. During a great part of the night, I and my men were on search-light duty. Of course, we could not think of sleeping but nobody wanted to, owing to the natural excitement in which we were. At seven o'clock in the morning we sighted the English coast, and our joy was all the greater, the nearer we came to our goal. Now we had to pay specially sharp attention. Every man on board was at his post. I with one of the stokers was on search-light duty, which was necessary for signalling during the bombardment, and with my glasses I could see all very well. In a fog that was favourable to us, we gradually approached the English coast. Then the commander gave his order:—"The ship ready for fighting, all the watertight bulkheads and hatches closed!"

Our guns were, of course, ready to fire long beforehand. Our first aim was the signalling station of the harbour, which lay right opposite us. Not far from the coast, we got the command: "Hoist flags"! and a moment later the German war-flag fluttered aft, merrily in the breeze, sending her greetings to the near lying coast.

Now the artful English discovered with whom they had to do, that German men-of-war were cruising so near their shores, and that they, on their Island, on which they thought themselves so safely out of gun range, were once more surprised by German daring. They hoisted their flag on the signal station, but the English colours had hardly arrived at mid-mast when the first German volley thundered across towards the English coast—and the whole building with its signal station were among the things of the past, thanks to the excellent markmanship of the German gunners. And now one volley after the other rang out from our and the other ships, each time full from broad side, so that every time the guns could shower down their shots on the coast and English batteries at the same time.

The "Lords of the Sea" got no time for thinking and in a few minutes the fortifications were a desolate heap of ruins. The English were completely surprised by our unexpected attack, as it

had never occurred to them that German battle ships would dare to steam right up under the nose so to say, of the "All powerful English Super-fleet" right up to their coast, bringing the horrors of war to the Island itself. But in this the English had made a bad reckoning. During the fighting we came nearer and nearer the English coast, and you can imagine that each of our shots was well placed. Scarborough pier was completely destroyed and several military buildings were reduced to heaps of ruins and ashes by our fire. We had all the work to do here. The firing lasted for about 30 minutes, then we steamed off to Whitby harbour, where our heavy ship's guns were again brought into play. During the bombardment here, an English passenger steamer came right into our firing line; as it was obvious that this ship had not sufficient life boats on board to save all passengers in case of the ship, sinking, we "Barbarians" ceased firing for a few minutes, so as to allow the steamer to get out of the firing range again. I wonder whether the humane English, who have shot at our soldiers with Dum-Dum bullets would have shown so much consideration?

When we had destroyed the military installations in Whitby, our task was accomplished, and we started on our homeward journey. Towards 2 p. m. the weather, which up to then had been pretty clear, changed; we came into a heavy sea with waves as high as houses and very soon night came on, which enabled us to reach our own harbour. Our ships were only hit a couple of times and suffered comparatively little damage on the lucky expedition. The damage which we have caused the English, must be enormous, but the moral effect, which our daring appearance off the English coast must have had, is certainly of more importance."

(Berliner Zeitung am Mittag, 8th January 1915.)

4. From the Air Fleet.

A Flight over Warsaw.

A young airman from Hanover, who for a long time has been employed at the Jatho-Works, clearly describes his flights over the hostile positions in Poland in a fieldpost letter to his mother:—

In comparatively good weather I ascended on December 1st with the leader of our company, Captain H. . . , as observer, from our position near St. for a flight towards Warsaw. Nothing happened during our flight thither. After about 2 hours we found ourselves about 2,500 metres over Warsaw; we dropped bombs and arrows and immediately after that returned. However, after a short time we had a dense, impenetrable cloud-bank behind us. I could not go underneath the clouds, as I should then have descended too far and very likely been shot down by the Russians. So I had to remain above the clouds and fly according to the

direction of the compass. When we had been flying like this for about another hour, we decided to go below the clouds.

This was not done as easily as is said. When we had pushed through the dense bank of clouds, we were only 70 metres high. Driven on by a strong rear-wind, we came according to our compass over ruined Russian villages, woods and fields. Where we were, whether friends or foes were underneath, we did not know: we had to keep pushing on.

After having flown like this for another half hour, we could observe by the changed aspect of the roads and villages that we were again flying across German territory. My observer now got his bearings again, and in a short time we found ourselves over St. . . . where we landed smoothly. The flight which we made on 3rd December, did not go off so well. On that day we had a narrow escape from being taken prisoners.

We ascended in clear, fine weather to take observations of a fortress situated not far from Warsaw. In the beginning all went well. When we had flown for about one hour and a half, and were still 30 kilometres distance from our goal, and about 70 kilometres from our own troops, the motor suddenly slackened and at the same time we heard a throbbing noise, which was a sign that the motor was getting too little oil and would stop altogether in a few minutes. My observer at once tried to find out the shortest way back to our troops. Even if we could not reach our own landing place, the only possible way to avoid being taken prisoners was, to try and reach our troops position. I trusted to the luck, which I have had up to this on my flights. But this time it looked, as if it had left me, for the motor got slower and slower, and gradually the apparatus began to sink towards the ground.

After about three quarters of an hour, which appeared like eternity, when we were only a hundred metres up, we saw S. . . lying in front of us. We had only to go a few kilometres so as to be in safety, and as if the motor wanted to say:—"Now I have done my duty" it stopped. Just before R. . . I was able to land smoothly on a stubble field. I have now been here for 8 days, repairing the machine, but hope to be able to fly again to-morrow.

The luck must be with one when flying, and we all hope for luck and success. This confidence will surely bring us to our goal.

(Hannoverscher Courier, 1st January 1915.)

Things seen and heard by a Correspondent at the War.

By Herbert Bayard Swope, Staff Correspondent of "The World."

I have just returned from the World War, as they call it in Germany, which I was helping to "cover" for the World. I was in the Azores Islands at the outbreak of hostilities, since when my

travels have taken me through Portugal, Spain, England, France, Luxemburg, Holland, Belgium, Germany, and Russia.

In Germany, France, and England my opportunities for observation were many and wide. I spent seven weeks in the Kaiser's realm, part of the time with the armies on the Russian front, and part of the time with the German left, operating from Belfort to Verdun on France's eastern front. And in Berlin, which all the correspondents made their headquarters, there was much to interest the professional onlooker.

I found Berlin unchanged and undisturbed from the Berlin of old. All the theatres are open, the restaurants are filled nightly. I saw her people confident in their eventual success, facing checks and reverses with the certainty that in the end victory would surely be theirs.

I saw London darkened at night, giving an air of gloom to the city that was already none too cheerful over the long expected, but so far unrealized visit of the Zeppelins. I found a curious apathy there. The best evidence of that is the slowness of recruiting, which will make, in the opinion of good judges, conscription a certainty before the war is over.

I found Paris tomblike. The closing of the cafés at 8 o'clock—and it is really closing, with no side doors working—and the restaurants at 9 o'clock, robbed Paris of its chief characteristic—the night life. The shops are for the most part shut and the streets are quite deserted at 9 o'clock. In the day time too the avenues are almost empty, and it is as hard to get a taxi or fiacre, as it was once difficult to avoid their attentions.

The attitude of Germany towards her foes is:—For Russia, indifference; for Belgium, contempt; for France, pity; for England, hatred, bitter and deep.

The most impressive two things in Germany are her armies and the devotion of the people. The marvellous efficiency and preparedness of her troops must command the admiration of any one who sees them. And the intensity of the patriotism of the people is deeper than religion. Whatever the causes of the war, whatever the burden of fault, if any, that belonged to Germany, the Germans are as one in their fervour of devotion. Every man, woman and child seems to feel that the Fate of the fatherland is resting upon his or her shoulders, and every one I saw, was doing something to help.

The Kaiser, instead of being weakened in his hold upon his people, is stronger than ever. From the lowest classes to the highest, I heard of nothing but devotion to the Hohenzollern dynasty. *I believe that a defeat would strengthen instead of weaken the position of the Emperor, so deeply do the people believe in his devotion to them and to the fatherland.*

In England I saw a magnificent response to the call from the upper classes and a scant answer from the so-called lower classes.

At the end of four months England has 1,100,000 men in training, of whom many have not yet had a gun in their hands. She has perhaps 250,000 men in the field. These, especially their officers have given good account of themselves. The mortality of English officers has been exceptionally high. Behind that lies a story that would be unwise to go into now.

France has turned out to a man. It is not generally known that at the outbreak of the war she possessed about 5,000,000 men trained to arms, against Germany's 4,500,000. A Frenchman not in uniform wears a brassard on his arm, to show that he is on special duty, for it is a mark of shame not to be in service.

I saw altogether probably 2,000,000 German soldiers. I saw just four of them drunk, and one of these was an officer.

The Germans practise rotation in the firing trenches. Whenever possible, troops in the trenches are relieved twice a day. Every fourteen days the men and officers receive 48 hours "Ruhepause"—rest periods. The officers and men, if they can afford it, go to some town adjacent to the lines and there meet their families.

I saw the sanitation rules enforced so strictly that the trenches are kept as clean as parlour floors. Communication trenches—i. e., open tunnels from the first line running back to protected reserved points—are used in this connection.

Among military men of all sides it is generally agreed that the most efficient single unit in operation is the Austrian motor batteries. These are guns that are combined mortar-howitzers. They are little larger than 12 inches in diameter, with tubes about 10 feet long, and have great mobility through being mounted on motor trucks that make their 10 miles an hour with ease.

These Austrian guns played a big part at the siege of Antwerp and are now being used around Verdun.

The Germans are suffering a heavy disappointment in that Verdun still stands against their assaults. On October 28, the Germans expected two of the 42-cm. or so-called seventeen-inch, guns to be emplaced, ready to pound Verdun to pieces within seven days. Reports from that region show that there must have been a slip-up in the programme, for Verdun still stands.

One of the big facts developed from the war seems to be the lack of real value of the cavalry arm. This will be bitterly fought by all cavalry men, but that it is the truth is privately admitted by Germans, French and English.

English cavalry men in action on the French and Belgian coastal regions are almost all dismounted and are being equipped with bayonets, an unusual expedient for cavalry men. They are being used in the trenches, to all intents, as infantry would be employed.

Germany is making no secret of the fact that she has as big a surprise in defensive warfare as she had in the offensive operations in her 42-cm. guns. While details are lacking, it is believed

that if the Allies ever reach the Rhine forts, they will find them equipped with rifles of eighteen or nineteen inch calibre, capable of sending their projectiles for fifteen to seventeen miles.

When a German force takes an advanced position, right behind it come the field kitchens, field hospitals, and field post-offices, all mounted on motor trucks.

I saw near Thiaucourt, on the German left, a German field bakery with the capacity of 24,000 loaves of bread every 24 hours. Also I saw a big electric field laundry, where hospital linen and soldiers' foot cloths (German soldiers do not wear socks; they wear cloths bound around the feet) are washed. And I saw a big field cobblery too and a big field tailoring establishment, where uniforms were being turned out for reinforcements that had not been equipped with the necessary field grey before being hurried up to the front.

Of all the armies in the field the Austrians have the most beautiful uniforms.

The two biggest heroes in Germany are Fieldmarshal General von Hindenburg and Kapitän-Leutnant Otto Weddigen, Commander of the U 9, who "got" the three British cruisers—"Aboukir," "Cressy," and "Hogue"—in one day, then went back and got the "Hawke" a week or so later, and finally at the beginning of the month torpedoed the "Hermes," "in home waters" as the English papers say, meaning in the Straits of Dover.

The most earnest in their support of Germany are the American and English women, who have married Germans. They are the leaders of the "War to Death Sentiment."

The Kaiser keeps with him in the field, in addition to the General Staff, the Chancellor von Bethmann Hollweg, the Foreign Minister von Jagow, and the Minister of the Marine von Tirpitz. The presence of the ruler and his aides in the field makes government in Berlin move slowly, for everything has to be referred to the "Grand Chief Headquarters," for Germany, in spite of the fiction of constitutional government, is to-day more of a one-man government than almost any other country in the world.

It was no unusual thing to see reserves, awaiting the call to go into action, drilling and shooting at butts when they were not near enough to the main bodies in action, to create fear that an attack in the rear was coming.

The Germans say that the Russians are good soldiers, but badly officered. Apropos of this, I personally saw examples of questionable methods in artillery fire on the part of the Russians on the East Prussian frontier, when the Russians were firing their field pieces on an average of thirty-six in six minutes, with the German answer about eight shots in 6 minutes. The Russians were firing hastily and wildly; the Germans slowly and effectively.

The Russian ammunition seems to be defective. With Karl von Wiegand of the "United Press" and Miles Bouton of the "Associated

Press" I was under fire at Wirballen for several hours, and of the shrapnel the Russians sent over the redoubts that sheltered us, perhaps three in ten exploded, certainly not more.

The only time I heard of German ammunition being poor, was during the coastal operations that are still being fought on the German right. The General Staff explains this as being due to the fact that the shells are encased in wicker-work covers that absorb the dampness from the flood regions, through which the Germans have been fighting.

The reasons for the war are more or less confused in the minds of those, who are actually fighting. I asked a German why he was fighting. "For the fatherland," he answered promptly. "Yes, but why is the fatherland fighting?" "For its national existence," he replied. "If we do not fight, we shall be wiped out, both as a country and as individuals."

I asked a Russian prisoner of more than average intelligence and cleanliness (the last is unusual) why his country fought. "Austria killed Serbia's King and Princes and wanted to swallow up Serbia. The Serbs are our brothers, so we are fighting for them. Germany is helping Austria, because she hopes to swallow Austria later on, so we are fighting them."

I asked some French prisoners, who were working in the hospital yards at Montmedy. One said:—"They told us we must fight, because we have an alliance with Russia, but I and my comrades know we are fighting to bring back to us Alsace and Lorraine."

A Sergeant of the Gordon Highlanders with whom I spoke at Döberitz, the big prison camp outside of Berlin, said:—"It's none of our fight right now, but we know that if the Germans can do what they did to Belgium, they will give us the same. It had to come sooner or later, so it might as well be now." I found, in spite of the boasted democracy of England, far less red tape in the Berlin government than I did in London. It was far easier to see a government executive in Germany than it was in England.

All German censorship centres at Berlin. Wherever the correspondent may be, he sends his dispatches to the acting or deputy General Staff in Berlin. From the big barn-like building that was for so long a time von Moltke's headquarters, the dispatches may be claimed—if they are not "too spiked." But it must be said that there is always a chance of arguing the question out with one of the Board of Censors. In London and Paris the censors work with the inscrutability of Providence—you can send your material to them and cross your thumbs in the hope that it will go through. You never know until you hear that it has been published—or it has not.

Nearly every German officer I met, spoke French in addition to his native tongue. And three out of five spoke English. Every English officer I met talked French as well as English, but one in five spoke German. Of the French officers I became acquainted with almost all spoke English too, but few of them knew German.

Every fourth German soldier in the field either had lived in America, or had relatives living there.

An unofficial estimate gives 7,000,000 Russians under arms, 5,000,000 Germans, 5,000,000 French, 1,100,000 English, and about 2,000,000 Austrians. Turkey is credited with 350,000 under the colours, and Servia and Montenegro with 300,000 between them.

Every railroad station in Germany has attached to it a receiving hospital, where the wounded, who live in the vicinity, are taken from the train and kept until they can be moved to their homes.

The most striking feature of the modern warfare is the manner in which cover is thought for men and guns. The smallest wood patch is utilized for infantry stations and green fields are chosen in preference to harvested ones. This is to afford concealment against aeroplane reconnaissance. Guns in the open field are covered with the vegetation of the field they are in. The trenches are screened on the sides and at the bottom in the same way.

Frequently a bristling line of guns can be seen sticking out from behind cover. You think the protection has not been very carefully arranged until you come nearer and discover that they are dummies, made out of wood for the benefit of the air scouts, while the real guns are very thoroughly and carefully concealed as far away as possible from the decoys.

Most of the German soldiers have allowed their beards to grow, but the officers are as spick and span as ever. It is no uncommon sight to see them shaving in the trenches during the fire pauses. Inspections of superiors are frequent and the officers always try to look their best before their commanders.

When the Prince of Wales was not permitted to go to the front and Lord Kitchener wrote a public letter to the effect that he did not consider the Prince's "military education was sufficiently complete to permit him to go to the front" there was a general laugh in Berlin, induced by the fact that the Kaiser and all six of his sons are in action.

In this connection the Kaiser was credited with saying that the Prince of Wales would never have a better opportunity of completing his military education than at the present time, and his German cousins would be happy to help him in the task.

After every battle Red Cross dogs are loosed on the field to seek out the wounded, who may have been overlooked at the general search that follows each engagement. Whenever they find a man, the dog stands by howling until relief comes, or, if too far away, they come to their company officers and lead attendants back to the wounded, who are generally unconscious. As a rule these dogs are of the German sheep dog, or the Belgian so-called police-dog breeds, fine animals with a high order of intelligence and a complete indifference for everything but their masters and their work.

None of the armies in the field uses the American method of having bands on the fronts. The Germans, with their insatiable thirst for music, make up for this lack by organizing choirs in the trenches. After nightfall, as you ride through the lines, you can hear the singing for miles and miles at a stretch.

Once more England is about to revolutionize naval warfare. Four new battleships are almost ready, each of them mounting ten 15-inch guns. That is the reason, why England remains cool and undisturbed in spite of the depredations of the German submarines.

Germany is now putting into commission several submarines, each with a tonnage of 2,500, a cruising radius of 3,000 miles, a service speed of 20 knots, and an under water speed of 11 knots. Apparently she is depending upon her submarines to cut the English navy down to a size that will justify a battle. She may be still holding in reserve the often reported plan of a Zeppelin raid against the British fleet, but for this the English are ready.

England has now in her possession both of the sea-planes built by Glenn Curtiss for the use of Lieutenant Porte in his projected trans-atlantic flight last summer, which was abandoned at the outbreak of the war. I have been told that the tests of these immense flying boats had been so successful that the Admiralty had ordered 20 more to be built at once. They spread 80 feet from wing tip to wing tip and have a surface speed of sixty miles with an air speed of ninety.

I have been told by reliable authorities that Germany to-day possesses only 6 guns of the 42-cm. type. These are the sort that were used at Liège and Antwerp. In England they have been named "Black Marias" or the "Jack Johnsons." Since they were born in Germany however, the Germans have the right to christen them. They call them there the "Busy Berthas," after Frau Bertha Krupp von Bohlen, daughter of the late iron master. They are also called "The Essener Kinder," which may be translated as "the Essen kids."

(New York World, 29th November 1914.)

